

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND
China Overland Trade Report.

VOL. LXIX.]

HONGKONG, MONDAY, 29TH MARCH, 1909.

No. 13

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DEATHS.

At Kien, Scotland, Mrs. HENDERSON (widow of the late John Henderson) for many years resident in Hongkong.

On the 14th inst., at his residence, No. 7 Chancery Lane, Hongkong, CHARLES CLEMENT WHOLTERS, aged 9 years.

Hongkong Weekly Press.

HONGKONG OFFICE: 10A, DES VŒUX ROAD CL.

LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

ARRIVAL OF MAILS

The German Mail of the 27th February, arrived per s.s. *Goeben* on the 25th instant.

The French Mail of the 26th February, arrived to-day per s.s. *Ernest Simons*.

FAR EASTERN NEWS.

Japan is providing at Port Arthur a Higher Industrial School to accommodate 800 boarders.

It is expected that Mr. Henry C. Ide, a former Governor-General of the Philippines, will be appointed American Minister to Spain.

On her voyage from across the Pacific this time the *Tenyo-maru* got into communication with Japan by wireless telegraphy when she was 1,350 miles out.

Signor Brambilla, one of the Italian delegates attending the International Naval Conference, has been appointed Secretary to the Italian Legation at Peking.

Mr. C. H. Oliver, who resigned from the Imperial Maritime Customs service last year, has rejoined with the rank of Commissioner and has been appointed Chief Secretary of the Customs at Peking.

H. E. Viceroy Chang is to pay an official visit to the Canton-Kowloon railway works (Chinese section) at Tai-Sha-tau on April 7th and will lay the foundation stone for the General Offices and Station buildings.

A Siamese who murdered Mr. Kaiser, a Swiss subject, ten months ago, has just been executed at Bangkok, in the presence of several representatives of the German Legation (which has charge of Swiss interests there), and about half a dozen other foreign residents at the Siamese capital.

The Commandants and Officers of the German Detachments of Tientsin and Peking were received in Audience by His Highness the Prince Regent on March 11th and the larger part of the German Detachment left Tientsin by steamer on Sunday the 14th inst. The Detachment is proceeding home by the steamer *Kleist*.

The Straits Settlement *Gazette* announces that Captain James Williamson, who is well-known in Hongkong as having been for many years captain of the steamer *Telemachus*, running between Hongkong and Saigon, has been granted a licence to act as a pilot at Singapore.

Monsieur Henri Gourdon, Director General of Public Instruction in Indo-China, is in Manila having arrived several days ago from Saigon. He is there for the purpose of investigating the insular school system with the view of applying as much as is practicable to the schools of Indo-China.

The Manila Government "mindful of the sudden collapse of a hotel in Hongkong," is making immediate repairs on the Oriente building which, it has been discovered, is threatened by white ants. This building houses the Bureaux of Agriculture, Constabulary, Lands, Civil Service and others.

The German cruiser *Leipzig*, accompanied by the naval transport *Titania*, has left Manila for Apia, Samoa. Vice Admiral Coerper, commanding the China station, left on the *Titania* for a trip of inspection of the German possessions in the Pacific. Captain Wurmbach, of the *Feurst Bismarck*, and senior officer of the station, succeeding temporarily in command of the Far Eastern squadron.

The *Straits Times* inquires whether bridge is becoming less popular in the Straits? The question is suggested on glancing over trade returns and finding that during the last quarter of 1907 playing cards imported into the Colony were valued at \$9,962, whereas for the three months ended December 21, 1908, the figure was \$1,569.

The Hon. R. H. Thayer, Judge Wilfley's successor at the United States Court at Shanghai, and Mr. F. E. Hinckley, clerk to that Court, were visitors to the Supreme Court of Hongkong one day last week. Judge Thayer was seated on the bench with Sir Francis Piggott, while Mr. Hinckley was accommodated alongside Mr. C. D. Melbourne, Deputy Registrar, until the adjournment of the Court.

It is stated that Admiral Coerper will be relieved of the command of the China squadron in the near future and return to Germany. He is to be succeeded by Rear-Admiral Ingenohl, due to arrive at Shanghai, from Europe, on May 23. Admiral Ingenohl is a brother of Mr. Ingenohl, manager of the Oriente Cigar Factory, Manila, and was previously in command of one of the German warships in Far Eastern waters.

The earthquake shock experienced at Yokohama on the 10th inst. is described by Mr. E. J. Moss, one of the oldest foreign residents of the port, as the worst he has experienced during a residence of forty years. On the Yokohama Bluff 96 houses suffered damage more or less severe, and 294 were slightly damaged, the cost being estimated at 25,000 yen. But in addition to this much damage seems to have been done to private collections of Japanese porcelain.

According to a report in the *Osaka Jiji* the Oriental Glass Manufacturing Company, which was organised with joint Japanese and foreign capital amounting to ¥2,000,000, and erected a great factory at Noda, Osaka, has got into serious difficulties. Recently a meeting of promoters was held, attended by Baron Shibusawa and Messrs. Okura Kihachiro, Murai Kichibei, Loonen, and another foreign gentleman, and after a protracted debate, it was agreed to wind up the concern.

Speaking of the British acquisition of three Siamese states under the recent treaty, the *Pinang Gazette* states that this acquisition of territory will afford the British merchants of the Straits an opportunity of opening up and developing new and valuable markets, in the place of those which they lost of recent years. That loss, it must be remembered, has been mainly due to circumstances beyond their control, but also largely to their lack of enterprise and inability to adapt themselves to altered conditions of trade and competition.

The *Nagasaki Press* states that news was brought by the *Kamikawa-maru* which arrived at Nagasaki on March 9th, to the effect that goods recently brought by some sixty British and German steamers to Vladivostok amounted to about 50,000,000 yen in value. Further imports were expected; consequently duty which it was anticipated would be collected during the forthcoming four years seems to have been lost. Business is in a dangerous state on account of speculative imports. Japanese in Fusan, Korea, chartered steamers for sending goods to the Siberian port before it was closed to free imports.

BRITISH POLITICS.

(Daily Press, 20th March)

That, unlike Continental nations, the English, as a people for hundreds of years accustomed to constitutional working, and having a Government at all times amenable to popular control, were not prone to sudden revolutionary outbreaks, but preferred the safer if slower method of moving through regularly appointed channels when it became advisable to remove abuses, used to be looked upon as one of the fundamental doctrines of national belief. So it continued till Mr. GLADSTONE, ousted in turn from Oxford and Greenwich, came on the country as a wounded wild beast, who in his private rage at what he thought the indignity that had been put upon him, —first of English statesmen—made his appeal to mob rule. GLADSTONE, the most shortsighted of rulers, whom it would be a mockery to dignify with the title of statesman, inasmuch as one of the main essentials of statesmanship, the ability of seeing the eventual result of his measures, was entirely lacking, was the first of responsible ministers to break through the wholesome rule of reticence, and for upwards of thirty years the State has been in a condition of constant simmer through the efforts of smaller men to follow in his footsteps. As his great opponent BEACONSFIELD put it, intoxicated by the exuberance of his own verbosity, GLADSTONE used to allow his tongue to take charge of his intellect; relying on that same exuberance to restrain the worse effects when necessary, but in his shortsightedness forgetting that what might be possible for him, would in men of lower intellect be an impossibility; and that they would be held bound to carry out any policy or doctrine, however suicidal, if once they had given utterance to the fatal word.

Without sufficient knowledge of men or things to control a parish vestry, members of the present ministry have been stumping the country, each with his own project of revolution, for it is one of the distinguishing characteristics of the present ministry that practically each member is in himself the head of the Government, and owes no respect nor allegiance to anyone higher. As head, too, each one seemingly believes that he, and he alone, is in charge of the feelings of the country, and is entitled to speak on its behalf against the world. That the present House of Commons no more represents the opinion of the country at large than did Barebones Parliament of CROMWELL's time that of seventeenth century England, is a truth too deep for him to grasp, and the favourite expression of the ministers when addressing country constituencies is that those wretched Lords in throwing out bills sent up from a non-representative Commons have been contravening the expressed will of the country; and that should they persist in going counter the will of the speaker some means must be found for extinguishing them. Now in this revolutionary declaration two untenable premises are put forward as the ground of the argument; the first is, of course, that the present House of Commons got together as a protest against what a large section of the Unionist Party saw was a gross blunder, in any other respect represents the opinion of the country. But one question was before the country, and on that the voice of the country was decidedly against the measure of the Government. The scheme for the introduction of Chinese unfree labour into South Africa was, as many members of the party pointed out, unsound from economic and social reasons.

Had the present Government got rid of it by honest or honourable methods they would have deserved, so far, well of the country. Unfortunately their arguments appealing to the lower class of the electorate were not only dishonest, but were actually untruthful. On no other point did any expression of opinion come from the country;—except,—but here only to a limited extent—on the subject of Tariff revision, on which the country had not then made up its mind. The second untenable premise is that the ministers in their private capacity are any better able to gauge the general opinion of the country than the Lords. As a fact the natural presumption would be that these people, having only the limited experience gained from sounding their own constituencies; and being from the necessities of the case forced only to bring before them an extremely limited purview of facts, are of all others least qualified to judge on such a matter. This is no new discovery, but is common to all ministries. Mr. CHURCHILL, who for instance thought he represented the mercantile interest in his former Manchester constituency, was taught by the inexorable logic of a contested election that on this subject at least he had wrongly gauged the opinions of a strictly mercantile constituency. Has he any stronger ground for the belief that in going down stumping to the constituencies his private desire to get rid of the matured opinion of the Lords, he is any the more expressing the views of the country at large?

As a fact, the Lords, dwelling, as most of them do, among the people at large, and having at ordinary times, at least, no particular axe to grind, are in a much better position to gauge from day to day the passing moods of public opinion than the minister who can never for a moment free himself from the meshes of official and party organisations; and who, even when best disposed, has his eyes and ears closed to the wider distinctions of public sentiment. Now, though not always a certain indication of the current of public thought, a continuance of bye-elections, especially along well defined directions, afford fairly trustworthy grounds for forming a definite opinion on the course of public opinion. The great blunder of the late Government in staking its existence on so questionable a policy as that of indentured labour in South Africa, was preshadowed in the result of a series of bye-elections, which should have convinced an able leader that something radical has gone wrong. Apparently in a p.t, instead of trying to ascertain the objectionable measure, the Prime Minister of the day threw up the sponge at the very moment when the irritation was greatest. The result was the emphasising of the one particular symptom, where the bodily health was in every other way sound and perfectly healthy;—as if a man in every respect in the full vigour of health and strength, should throw away the remainder of his life, because, forsooth, he had contracted a corn on his little toe. The blunder of the present inefficient and revolutionary Cabinet is in presuming that the corn on the patient's toe, already removed by the mere effluxion of time, gave it a commission to administer a lethal dose of chloroform with the avowed object of performing an operation for appendicitis, of which disease the patient had never exhibited the slightest symptom. In fact the country has undergone a phethora of experimenting, which would appal the most strenuous vivisectionist; and its great need is not further cutting and manipulating, but simply rest to permit it to recuperate after its half century of experimental treatment.

One session of Parliament wherein the Ministry of the day would have the moral courage to announce that it did not intend to introduce one single measure of so-called reform, but meant to confine itself to the business of the day, and the healing of the wounds incurred in the late contentions of over-zealous practitioners, would do more to restore a healthy frame of mind and body than all the nostrums of the empirics put together. We might, e.g., once more have an Army, in case the turn of external events should bring on an invasion; and we might even hope to find our Navy, once more reduced to efficiency, show that England was not in the least disposed to hand over to others the empire of the seas.

FREE TRADE BETWEEN AMERICA AND THE PHILIPPINES.

(Daily Press, March 22nd.)

No community of American citizens hailed the victory of Mr. TART in the Presidential contest with greater delight than did the American merchants established in business in the Philippine Islands, for the fact that Mr. TART was the first Civil Governor-General of the islands after they passed under the control of the United States, and to a large extent laid down the policy of the future government of the islands, gave him claims to support in the eyes of all interested in the Philippines which his rival lacked. Moreover, since relinquishing the Governor-Generalship of the Islands, Mr. TART has naturally continued to watch with a keen paternal interest the development of the great work he initiated, and has shown a constant solicitude for the steady progress and welfare of the Islands. What made his candidature for the presidency particularly agreeable to the American business community in the Philippines was Mr. TART's known sympathy with the movement for the establishment of reciprocal Free Trade between the United States and the Philippines, and one of his earliest acts as President has been the fulfilment of his promise to "do something" for the Philippines in this direction. It may be remembered by many readers that a feature of the Fourth of July celebrations in the Philippine Islands last year were the demonstrations organised in the principal cities with the object of endorsing a petition in favour of reciprocal Free Trade between the Islands and the United States. Full use was made of this petition during the Presidential campaign, and the question has since been kept rather prominently before the public by the newspapers. A cartoon which recently came under our notice showed a substantial wall separating the Philippines from the United States, and on the wall was inscribed in big letters the words: "Philippine Imports 1908—From the U.S. 16 per cent; from other countries 84 per cent. Total, \$30,918,357." Uncle SAM was represented as looking over the wall and tendering to a Filipino from the end of a pole a pair of braces. "The little brown brother" was pictured wearing trousers from Spain, a coat from England, shoes from Australia, a shirt from Japan, a vest made in Germany, a hat made in China, and a necktie from the United States. The letterpress at the foot of the picture represented the Little Filipino as saying: "Well, Uncle, I bought my necktie of you anyway"; and Uncle SAM as replying: "Yes, and if I can ever get this tariff wall removed, you'll buy you entire outfit of me." The other commercial powers were represented as listening with amusement to the conversation. President TART has set himself the task of removing the wall, and in spite of

the opposition of the sugar and tariff interests in the United States, he will in all probability succeed. In the petition to which reference has been made, there was mention of the "splendid development" in Porto Rico since Congress gave to that island the advantage of free trade with the United States which is demanded for the Philippines, and those who signed the petition affirmed their belief that they could pledge to Congress for the Philippines an equal return in commerce in proportion to population if they were granted the same legislative advantages. In other words "where the million Porto Ricans purchase twenty-five million dollars' worth of goods in the United States, eight million Filipinos will, within ten years from the enactment of a Free-Trade law, be purchasing two-hundred million dollars' worth." That seems very sanguine prophecy when we are dealing with a present total import trade of less than thirty-one million dollars. *Nous verrons.* What for the moment is chiefly interesting is the fact that the nation which has been so insistent on the policy of the open door and equal opportunities for all in the Far East should now be embarking on a policy totally at variance with these principles in the Asiatic territory over which her flag flies. A year ago a Convention of American Manufacturers at New York passed a resolution in favour of closing the Islands to trade with any other nation than the United States. Reciprocal Free Traders, though they do not ask for a law in these terms, are evidently hoping to achieve practically the same result.

NEW LIGHT ON PARTHIAN HISTORY.

(Daily Press, March 23rd.)

That there are many cases where chance and incidental references to dealings with foreign states, have enabled the Chinese historical works to be made use of for correcting the scanty, and often loose accounts of the classical writers, has long been known, and STANISLAS JULIAN has made considerable use of these records. The Chinese books have also served in many instances to throw light on the extremely wild statements of the Indian authors who have treated on the history of Buddhism; and it is, indeed, largely through the light thrown on them by Chinese writers that an approximation has been made towards a chronography of the early ages of Buddhism. Indeed of chronology, until they came into contact with the Chinese, the Indians had not the faintest conception; so that in a few years the most important occurrences had invariably become encrusted with such a fringe of myth that frequently the most experienced reviser has to give up in despair the task of evolving a single historical fact out of the overpowering mass of rubbish. Owing, however, to the ignorance and self-sufficiency of the French translators of the eighteenth century of whom DES GUIGNES was a typical example, the most erroneous conclusions were arrived at, so that instead of being helped, the historian has ever since been weighted with a whimsical assortment of mis-statements, and the history of Central Asia has, in consequence become more contorted and entangled than ever. Of all the hindrances to Chinese studies that have ever appeared the influence of two men stand out pre-eminent, DES GUIGNES and the late Sir THOMAS WADE; both being men who to a supreme ignorance of the groundwork of the Chinese language added a most overweening idea of their own

particular attainments. Both, moreover, were ignorant of the simplest facts in history, and neither possessed the slightest spark of critical intelligence. Both, moreover, were, owing to the superlative ignorance of those with whom they were thrown in contact, elevated into the false position of teachers, a position that neither their attainments fitted them to occupy.

These thoughts were forced on the notice of the writer a short time ago on taking up a Chinese work entitled *Biographies of Distinguished Buddhas* (Kao sang chwen ch'o tsih). The work is modern but has been carefully compiled from original sources. Omitting the Buddhists of the old Southern School of the Hinayana, who came in response to the Emperor MING TI's request after his famous dream, and who have left no mark on modern Buddhism, the Religion was really introduced by the Apostle whom the older accounts style AN-SHI-KAO, which we may render as Kao, The Pacifier of the Age. The more modern work, while mentioning the older title, calls him AN-TSING T'SE-SHI-KAO, which we may perhaps render as a transliteration of the Sanscrit, VARDHADRISHA KAO. The over-increasing-in-zeal Kao. AN-SHI KAO came to China in the second year of the reign of the Emperor HWAN of the later Han, i.e. 148 A.D., and according to the Chinese story had had a romantic career. He was the eldest son of the King of Parthia by the Queen, and had in his youth, been carefully instructed in all the arts then current; he had studied the rules of justice, was able in discussion, and powerful in judgment; he had practiced the art of healing, and was a lover of literature; more, he was skilled in the occult arts, and comprehended the language of birds and beasts. But although thus exalted in position, he cared nought for these things. When the King died he had as a matter of course ascended the throne; but as soon as the days of mourning had come to an end, he relinquished all his royal honours, and resigning the throne to his uncle, retired to a monastery, where he soon rose to the head. He commenced travelling through those parts of Central Asia which then acknowledged the suzerainty of China, everywhere preaching the word; and at last, the year after the accession of the Emperor HWAN, arrived in China itself.

So much we learn from the Chinese author, which tallies perfectly with what we learn from classical sources; where we are told much of his earlier career, not less interesting than his mature life. Rome and Parthia were at the time engaged in a contest for the empire of the East; and Armenia had become the goal for which both were striving. In the year 66 TIRIDATES, who had been placed on the throne of Armenia by his brother VARGASH, called by the Romans VOLAGASES, by arrangement after war had been declared between the two to the detriment of Parthia, went to Rome to be invested by the Emperor NERO. TIRIDATES had been, it happened, a Zoroastrian priest, and this character he seems to have retained notwithstanding his elevation. He, however, died without issue, and PACORUS, who was at the time ruling King of Parthia, put as his successor on the Armenian throne his young son, called by the Romans EXIDARES, but whose name in old Persian was KHSHATUR. This was the prince afterwards known to the Chinese as AN-SHI KAO. TRAJAN, who was now Roman Emperor, objected to this interference; and CHOSROES, brother of PACORUS, who had succeeded him on the Parthian throne, not wishing to offend TRAJAN, deposed his young nephew, and wrote to TRAJAN stating that the Armenian crown

was now vacant; and naming his other nephew, PARTHAMISIRIS, asked for his investiture from Rome, as a subject king like TIRIDATES. TRAJAN, who was ambitious of annexing Armenia, returned an evasive answer, and said he was himself coming to the East, when he would see what was to be done. On his arrival PARTHAMISIRIS rode into the Roman camp to TRAJAN's tent, and formally removing the crown which he had assumed laid it at the feet of TRAJAN, expecting it to be as formally returned; TRAJAN had, however, other things in view, and the army, seeing he did not return it, shouted, declaring him Emperor. PARTHAMISIRIS, feeling himself entrapped, demanded a private conference which was granted, and complained of the indignity; TRAJAN told him that Armenia was now a Roman province, and would not be restored; he was, however personally at liberty, and would not be molested. He accordingly made his arrangements to ride away, but was treacherously set upon and murdered. On the death of his father PACORUS a few years previously EXIDARES, being apparently judged too young, had himself been passed over in the Parthian succession. He had now experienced the emptiness of human greatness,—put on the throne of Armenia as a boy, he had been dispossessed at the beck of a Roman Emperor; he had been passed over when it came to his turn to ascend the Parthian throne; and last he had seen his brother PARTHAMISIRIS ignominiously driven from the Roman camp, and murdered in cold blood. It was little wonder then that on the death of CHOSROES, who was his uncle, not his father, about 128 A.D., EXIDARES should have declined the dangerous honour, and preferred to retire to his monastery. Historians have always been puzzled over the extraordinary fact that though it was known that EXIDARES was alive and the rightful heir, he was a second time passed over and the crown given to a distant relation. The Chinese narrative supplies the missing reason. Confounding the two occasions it indeed makes his uncle to have succeeded, which was the case in the first instance only.

But a still more curious fact remains behind. TIRIDATES of Armenia, was grand uncle to EXIDARES, and was, as we have seen, a Zoroastrian priest; it must have been under his auspices that EXIDARES's early education had been carried out, and, as the Chinese story tells us, he was learned in all the wisdom of the time. We are not told why it was to Buddhism that he turned. He must, however, have come under the influence of the great Buddhist apostle of the Mahayana school, ACYAGHO-HA; now it is curious that foremost amongst the doctrines taught by ACYAGHOSHA was that of the Buddha Amida and the Paradise of the West. But Amida Buddha was but a Buddhistic rendering of the old Zoroastrian legend of YIMA KSHAETA and his happy land of the Airyana, and the inspiration here seemingly came from TIRIDATES himself. At all the events the age was one of religious enquiry, and attempts were being made to amalgamate the principles of the great religions of Buddhism, Zoroastrianism and Christianity. TIRIDATES himself sent to the Court of King GONDOBERT, then ruling in northern India, and invited the Apostle THOMAS to visit him, so that it is almost certain that his grand nephew must have listened to the two Apostles ACYAGHOSHA and THOMAS, of Buddhism and Christianity respectively. The Buddhism brought to China by AN-SHI KAO was of the northern type of the Mahayana school, and its principal doctrine was the worship of Amida in contrast to the featureless and spiritless doctrines as the Southern school taught by

GOTAMA himself, whose highest conception of good was total extinction.

Altogether Chinese literature is not exhausted; and there are many truths, historical as well as religious and philosophical, to be unearthed from its study; but unfortunately the deadening influence of men like DES GUIGNES and WADE have led anxious searchers off the track, until sinology has become a byword amongst studies, as leading to no possible end.

THE GAME OF BEGGAR-MY-NEIGHBOUR.

(Daily Press, March 24th.)

The statements on our naval position made in Parliament during the past week by the Premier and the First Lord of the Admiralty afford food for many and various reflections. Shortly after the Parliamentary Session began an Amendment to the Throne was tabled by a group of members described as the Reduction of Armaments Committee—the dreamers probably referred to in the Premier's remark that "there are old women of both sexes who dream of peace"—asking the House to express regret that "despite the continued and increasingly friendly relations with Foreign Powers, and the repeated promises of Ministers to effect reductions in the outlay on armaments an increase in that outlay is foreshadowed in the Gracious Speech from the Throne." To discuss such a motion would have been sheer waste of time, and apparently in deference to some such view taken by the Speaker, the supporters of the amendment acquiesced in a suggestion to defer this discussion to a more suitable occasion, such as is afforded in the debate on the Estimates for the Navy. Possibly they have had their little say, but their protest has carried no weight. If the amendment they formulated were meant to be a mere academic expression of regret that an increase had become necessary, it would receive unanimous assent, but there will be little sympathy in the House or the country at large with the condemnation of the increase which the motion implies. Its ineptitude lies in the fact that it ignores the rapid naval expansion of the other Powers. So long as the other Powers continue increasing their armaments, it would be criminal folly on the part of the British Government to place the great and wide-spread interests of the country in jeopardy by a policy of inaction. However friendly her relations may be with Foreign Powers at the present time, the fact cannot be ignored that Great Britain owes her commanding position in the world to the recognised power of her Navy to defend the interests of the country, and it is not difficult to perceive that a similar line of thought dictates the naval policies of other progressive Powers. Quite recently we had President TAFT in his inauguration address saying that in the international controversies which might arise in the Orient with regard to the open door and "other issues" the United States could not maintain her interests intact and ensure respect for her "just demands" unless these were backed by something more than mere diplomacy. It is to be observed that President TAFT and the Emperor of Germany share the belief that big navies are necessary for the settlement of—or perhaps we should say, preservation from—international controversies in the Far East. In England the possibility of international trouble in the East is regarded as extremely remote for there is nothing at present either in Great Britain or Japan to indicate that the agreement of alliance

will cease at the earliest date possible, that is to say in 1915. Unless one of the contracting parties has notified to the other twelve months before the expiration of the ten years term the intention of terminating it, the agreement will remain binding until the expiration of one year from the day on which either of the High Contracting Powers shall have denounced it. This latter proviso is usually overlooked in the references which are made to the question. It is early yet to say what may happen in regard to this matter in 1914, but in naval matters, as the experts tell us, it is essential to take long views, and therefore such an opinion as the following given by an expert in a recent London paper will doubtless carry its due weight. "I repeat" he says, "and it cannot be too often repeated, that the time against which we have to make provision now, is the time when we shall have to keep a great fleet, estimated by Germans at 40 per cent., of our armoured strength, in the Pacific. It is not in the least implied that our relations with Japan will become unfriendly, but either we or the Americans have got to provide a counterpoise to the Yellow Empire, and if we leave the task to the Americans, to the Americans will the white men of Australasia turn." Interesting as this view undoubtedly is, it has had little or no influence in forming the determination of the people of Great Britain and the Colonies to maintain at all costs an effective Navy at a two-Power standard. There is no need to fear the alienation of the Colonies. Their attachment to the Motherland has been proved in the past and is being proved again. In this demand for the maintenance of an effective Navy the Colonies are recognising their obligations and the enthusiastic support which is being given in Australasia to the proposals to present two or three Dreadnoughts to the Navy shows that Great Britain is well able to hold her own in what Mr. BIRRELL has called this game of beggar-my-neighbour.

JAPAN'S ALLEGED SEIZURE OF PRATAS.

(Daily Press, March 25th.)

When it came under our notice a week or two ago that the Chinese newspapers of Canton were working up a sensation over the presence of a few Japanese on Pratas Island leading to the assertion that this forbidding bit of territory had been "seized by Japan" it recalled to mind a similarly absurd story which appeared in one of the Manila papers about twelve months ago wherein it was set forth with considerable wealth of detail that the British had seized Pedro Blanco, lying between Hongkong and Amoy, and intended to convert the place into a naval base. Those who know Pedro Blanco to be what it is,—a rock with a whitish summit, rising sheer out of the water with scarcely foothold for man or beast—were able to enjoy the joke. Those who had never before heard of Pedro Blanco possibly imagined it to be some forsaken island with perhaps a useful harbour which the aggressive British meant to embrace in some extended scheme of naval fortifications with a view to more effectually dominating the ocean highway from the North to the Colony of Hongkong. It was a hoax, a palpable hoax, and being recognised as such by the Chinese newspaper editors, there was no outcry in the vernacular Press against British aggression; nor did the report acquire the dignity of becoming the subject of diplomatic communications. The report of the alleged seizure of Pratas Island has a little

better foundation than the other story possessed, but it has received an amount of attention out of all proportion to its importance. Pratas Island is situated between Hongkong and Manila, and is usually well in view of the steamers running between the two ports. It is about a mile and a half long and half a mile wide. It is composed of sand, and a description of the island says that not a particle of mould or earthy matter could be found on it. Its shape is that of a horse-shoe, enclosing a shallow inlet or lagoon, which runs into its western side for about half a mile, affording shelter to the Chinese fishermen who have been accustomed to proceed there to fish early in the year. It is not an attractive island on which to found a Colony, for it is waterless and inhospitable to the utmost degree, and nobody would be inclined to remain there a day longer than the business speculation which brought him demanded. What has attracted Japanese to the islands are the phosphates obtainable there. "Gannets" we read, "are numerous, and may be knocked down with a stick." Consequently it is a place where phosphates may be presumed to exist in considerable quantities, and it is no secret that Japanese have been coming to the Pratas Island for several years to ship phosphate to Japan where there appears to be a market for it. According to Chinese reports, the Japanese have made upwards of a million yen out of the business, but this statement should be taken *cum grano salis*. The story that there are over thirty Japanese and forty Formosans permanently living on the island is also one not to be credited. It is probable that the Chinese fishermen who returned to Canton with the story of the annexation of the island by the Japanese encountered there one of these periodical expeditions from Formosa or Japan. The Viceroy sent a deputy down in a warship to investigate. This is probably the first time that China has taken any official interest in the place. It has always been regarded as "no man's land," and about the year 1860, owing to the frequency of British ships being wrecked on the Pratas Shoals, the British Government was asked to erect a lighthouse there, but the Board of Trade declined to move in the matter. Pratas Island does not appear to have been recognised then as territory over which the Chinese Government exercised sovereignty, and the Japanese official *communiqué* we published yesterday shows that Japan has no present knowledge that it belongs to China; nor does the Japanese Government regard it as belonging to the Japanese Empire merely because a few enterprising Japanese traders have gone there in the belief that no Power exercised sovereignty there. It is not a prize to be coveted by any Power, and if China is able to establish her claim to the island, the Japanese Government says it is quite prepared to recognise the sovereignty of China over it. But the Japanese Minister in Peking should have little difficulty at securing to the Japanese subjects concerned whatever interests they may have peacefully acquired there in the *bona-fide* belief that this neglected island belonged to no Power.

The members of the Chinese Government and the Naval Commissioners are agreed that it is necessary to levy a tax in order to raise the money for the reorganization of the navy, and have written to the provincial authorities requesting them to levy the naval tax decided upon some time ago, as soon as possible, for the reconstruction of the navy cannot be further delayed.

THE CHINAMAN AS AN ENGINEER.

(Daily Press, March 26th.)

Naturally the Chinaman is an Engineer; no people in the world, in fact, possess to the same degree the talent for construction. Everyone who has ever had to do with Chinese mechanics, or even the ordinary bearing coolie, knows with what instinctive readiness he masters the main principles of the task required, whether it be merely bearing a burden in the most effective manner, or whether the work required is connected with some apparently abstruse function of steam or electricity. No nation on the earth, again, has such facility in organising labour, as may be seen any day in the enormous and often uncouth loads carried about our streets any day; where the labour is so sub-divided that a task in other hands requiring long preparation, and probably a huge mass of machinery, to be dismantled immediately afterwards, is accomplished with seeming ease as if it were a thing every one understood, and wherein each falls at once into his allotted place. Withal this, it seems to one unaccustomed to the habits and mode of thought of China an incomprehensible enigma that every engineering task undertaken by the Chinese people as a nation has utterly broken down; and the foreigner whom it was their boasted intention to oust has at the last moment, when imbecility and wrong-headedness have exhausted the resources at command, to be recalled at a ruinous expense to undo the work of the native bungler.

Of course for this condition of affairs there is more than one contributing cause, all converging, however, to the one point. One of these is the national failing of "cocksuredness," which renders every native so assured of his own self-inspiration that asking for advice is superfluous, if not actually criminal. This is, however, not so much a national as an acquired characteristic. For centuries China undoubtedly took the lead in her own world; her word in politics, in law, and in culture, was all-sufficient, and there existed no power to gainsay it. The situation was fatal to Chinese power of analysis, and the mathematical power naturally well developed in the race, from want of use became atrophied. The late ALEXANDER WYLIE, a competent judge, than whom no man knew better his Chinese people as mathematicians, evinced in the readiness with which the few who devoted themselves to the study could master the most difficult equation. With the great majority from want of use the faculty had become extinct. Engineering up to date has, of course, its foundations deep in mathematics, and the engineer who fails to grasp this vital fact can make but poor progress in the art. It is here mainly that the ordinary native Chinese fail. Put to solve a difficulty beyond the ordinary every day experience, the Chinese engineer in vain appeals to his rule of thumb formulae and without the requisite groundwork of science to work out for himself a new formula suited to the particular case, he flounders about in the darkness each instant wandering further from the true solution. The defect is not to be taken as congenital; the ability still exists but has been so overlaid with unwholesome wraps of disused garments, that the patient fails to respond to the stimulus. The so-called "education" of centuries, so far from acting to draw out the natural abilities of the Chinese people, has had the directly contrary effect, and has hopelessly entwined them in a net of confusion.

The one exception here to the rule we have mentioned goes of itself to prove its truth. Quietly, and without ostentation, the railway from Peking to Kalgan has been advancing to completion under a Chinese engineer, who has shown himself competent for a difficult task. The talent and the power of applying to a useful end his own constructive instincts, are it is true, altogether Chinese; but the training has been as significantly foreign, and foreign of the best type. It has not here been a case of a smart missionary boy sent for a few months to a second-rate Western school to pick up some superficial information,—just enough to confirm his own ignorance. The Chinese Engineer will in the future, as in the past, be able to achieve great things; but his entire system of training, his A. B. C. in effect, whether in literature or in physics, must be carried on on entirely different lines; and here we are sorry to have to add that by far the greater part of the so-called "education" of the foreign school has little more tendency to develop the intellect than the soul-destroying mannerism of the arch-humbler CHUHI, on whose mental incapacity must rest much of the blame for the general atrophy.

But an even more potent cause for the failure of Engineering enterprise in China, so characteristically described by the *Times* Correspondent, and to which ample testimony can be borne, is to be found in the false system of administration which the neglect of centuries has brought to a head, and which culminated under the late Empress Dowager. In most countries—in a rudimentary state it may be allowed in some,—some punishment is awarded, nominally at least, for dishonesty. China on the contrary has acted as if dishonesty were the virtue, and honesty the crime to be met with condign punishment. No honest means existed in Peking for providing for the actual expenses of administration, but as they had to be provided dishonesty came to the front. A jealous Government was not content to leave such important organisations as Railways were likely to become, in private hands;—that under an imperious ruler like the Empress Dowager was not to be thought of, so Peking concerned itself in appointing "directors." So far so good. But the Empress Dowager's satellites saw no difference between a railway director and a taot'ai (say) appointed to a lucrative post; both would have money passing through their hands, and it was all one to the shark concerned whether the money were to be squeezed out of the unfortunate peasant, or was contributed, in trust to the directors by their shareholders, for the purpose of building the railway. There was money in sight, and the shark saw it: that surely was sufficient. The lady at the helm could not be expected to trouble herself about such indifferent trifles, and reasoning from past experience, it was an incontrovertible fact that all officials were of necessity dishonest, and it was as well to punish them before the fact—and more profitable—than to wait till something wrong had been actually done. The Railway directors, who willy-nilly had been turned into officials, were of course dishonest, and should be milked; Peking too had many impecunious relations, and it was a matter of piety that these should be provided for, so they were palmed off on the directors to do the best they could for them. It was true that for these purposes accounts had to be cooked, or suppressed altogether; but what of that? When did Peking ever trouble itself about accounts?

Of course it was easy to fling the stone at the directors; Peking has lately,—and it is

one of the worst faults of the new Regency that still makes use of the old weapon,—been talking freely about the iniquity of the provinces, and the Railway Directors, (witness the Tientsin-Puk'oo line,) have not been spared. But who got the squeezes that forced dishonest administration on the Directors; and who appointed the inefficient and utterly useless officials? It is no credit, either to the administration of the late Dowager, nor to the presumably purified Regency of to-day; but it is notorious that the hangers-on of the yamens from the highest to the lowest, the panderers to the most filthy and disgusting vices, are of all others the selected ones to whom are permitted to flow the life-blood of the Empire; and who are at the instant the chief recipients of the loans provided by a confiding public at home, who with a confiding innocence worthy of a better object, fondly imagine that their contributions are being utilised for the construction of railways; and are thereby advancing the well being of China. The *Times* Correspondent might have usefully added this to his suggestive report on the Chihkiang Railway.

THE ANGLO-SIAMESE TREATY.

(Daily Press, 27th March.)

The telegraphic summary of the new Treaty made between Great Britain and Siam, which we published some days ago, admitted of the inference that British subjects now in Siam would not come under the jurisdiction of the Siamese Courts, but only those who register after the signature of the Treaty. The full text of the Treaty, which was signed at Bangkok on the 10th inst., is not to be published until it has been submitted to the Imperial Government, and Mr. RALPH PAGET, His Majesty's Charge d'Affaires in Siam, is now proceeding Home with the Treaty. The purpose of the Treaty so far as affects British extra-territorial jurisdiction in Siam, has, however, been communicated to the Bangkok Press by the General Adviser to the Siamese Government, and from this we learn that the distinction created between British subjects settled in the country before the signature of the Treaty and those who register in the future will disappear when the Siamese Codes are completed. How soon that is expected to eventuate there is no indication in the published digest of the Treaty. Nor does it say whether the Treaty will come into force as soon as the ratifications are exchanged, or whether, as was the case when extra-territoriality was surrendered in Japan, its operation will be delayed for a few years. It was expressly provided in the Anglo-Japanese Treaty of 1894 that the agreement should not take effect until at least five years after its signature, and it did not in fact come into operation until the year 1899. By that time the Japanese Legal Codes were in force, and the interval of five years had been well spent in improving the Judiciary generally. Though it can hardly be said that Siam is any better qualified to assume jurisdiction over foreigners than was Japan in 1894, the nature of the Treaty made with Siam precludes the expectation that it will contain any such provision as that indicated. For it looks very much as if extra-territorial privileges have been bartered for territory, and if that be so the contracting parties would desire to effect the exchange as quickly as possible. We gather, however, from a Bangkok contemporary that in official circles this view of the Treaty is strongly resented, and emphatically declared to be erroneous. But it widely prevails, nevertheless, among

British residents in Siam, and there is naturally considerable irritation; but there are no indications at present of an organised protest. What the total British population is in Siam we have no statistics available to show, but in the five Consular districts of Bangkok, Chantabun, Saiburi and Puket, Chiangmai, and Nakawn Lampang, the total number of British subjects is nearly six thousand. Of these less than three hundred are whites. The rest are made up of Indians, Chinese, Malays, Siingalese, Burmese, Shans, Eurasians and Tongsus. There are about 200 French citizens in Siam, but France has something like twenty thousand Asiatic subjects and protégés in the Kingdom. Germany has about the same number of white subjects as France, and America ranks next. Presumably the Siamese Government is negotiating with all the other Powers for the surrender of extra-territoriality, and naturally starts first with the Power whose influence in the country is greatest, though a beginning may be said to have been made ten years ago, for in the Treaty with Japan, negotiated in 1898, it was arranged that the jurisdiction of Japanese Consular officers over Japanese subjects in Siam should cease when the Codos are completed. In Siam, as was the case in Japan, the surrender of extra-territoriality is viewed with great misgiving by the great majority of British subjects, who contend that the present state of the nation's progress does not justify the step. The only word which the British Chargé d'Affaires has yet permitted himself to say on the subject is to the effect that "a moment's consideration of the exceeding liberality of Siam in certain directions should suggest that British subjects would find their fears were groundless." We may fairly assume that the British Government which, it is well known, has had the subject under consideration for a very long time, is well assured that the interests of its subjects in Siam are not likely to suffer by coming under Siamese jurisdiction, with such safeguards as the Treaty provides; and unless the community is able to show conclusively that this confidence in the Siamese Government is woefully misjudged, the outcry against the surrender of extra-territoriality is not likely to carry much weight with the Home Government. It must be recognised that no Western community in an Asiatic country would complacently submit to deprivation of the extra-territorial rights and privileges which it has long enjoyed and it is natural that such a change should be viewed with great misgiving. Many of our readers can recall the lugubrious predictions of foreign residents in Japan when the Powers surrendered their extra-territorial jurisdiction there, but the experience of the past eight years has justified the confidence of the Powers and it may be hoped that the results in the case of Siam will be no less satisfactory.

The cruiser *Fuerst Bismarck*, the flagship of the station ever since coming out here in 1900, the year she went into commission, returns to Kiel in November of this year. She will be thoroughly overhauled and then attached to the German home fleet in Baltic waters. The first-class cruiser *Scharnhorst* has been designated by the German Navy department as the flagship of the Eastern station, to take the place of the *Fuerst Bismarck*. The *Scharnhorst* is a modern warship, of recent construction, heavily armed, and displacing over 13,000 tons. will, a contemporary, says have the distinction of being the largest war vessel maintained on the Chinastation by any of the Powers. This however, is not quite correct. His *Majesty's King Alfred* for instance has a displacement of 14,100 tons.

RANDOM REFLECTIONS.

The presence of so many fighting machines in our waters would suggest that the time of peace on earth good will to all men had not yet arrived, especially so when we read the cables in the daily papers describing the agitation at home over the strength of our navy. But though we have not decided to beat our swords into ploughshares there is, nevertheless, a growing international amity which is perhaps nowhere more apparent than in our port. Here we have welcomed the warships from most countries which possess a navy, and the past week has witnessed an expression of our good feelings towards representatives of other nations.

There is no doubt about it. The men of the moment in Hongkong are the American naval men. The French we see more frequently, and are always glad to welcome, but our chief interest these days is in the American sailor with his fondness for cycling, his delight in ricsha riding, and his enthusiasm for baseball. He certainly has a large conception of liberty and he undoubtedly makes the most of his freedom.

I am certain that no class appreciate the visit of the American ships more than do the ricsha coolies. Quick to spot a stranger, they have made the most of their possibilities with the visiting bluejackets and it is little wonder that they wear the smile which is child-like and bland. Somebody described the smile as large as their hat, but that of course is an exaggeration. Still, it is indicative of the fact that the ricsha runners are reaping a golden or rather a silver harvest. When asked "how much" be their simple fares they blandly respond "one dollar," and in nearly every case their demands are met. Some of the visitors there were who had taken the trouble to make themselves acquainted with the tariff, but most of the tars had to pay for their inexperience of the wily one.

I notice the French Convent, not satisfied with "teaching the young idea how to shoot," aims at moulding beautiful characters and lovely dispositions by giving prizes for gentleness, for smiling, and for politeness. I have no fault to find with the staff for attending to this side of youthful training. My only regret is that their scope is so limited. Supposing the Sanitary Department and other Government departments came under their influence, Hongkong would be a veritable heaven on earth.

There has been no little perturbation in many households in Hongkong this last week by the receipt of copies of the endless chain prayer. The recipients are requested to send a copy to nine different people, one each day, and the result will be that on the ninth day they will experience some great joy and at the same time be delivered from great calamity. The "great joy" on the ninth day can be understood in the feeling of relief at having finished such a task, but the calamity, the great calamity which has been thereby averted will, I am afraid, never become known. The only satisfactory feature about the thing is that it shows there are a few simple guileless souls still to be found in the colony.

When ladies met and compared notes as to whether they had received this precious epistle, some began to feel aggrieved that they should have been selected for what they were inclined to consider as an insult. To impugn their character and reputation by suggesting that they needed such a prayer roused the feminine ire in several instances, but I believe this will be assuaged when they reflect that their friends who did not receive it were regarded as "past praying for."

What has happened to our local sports? I should have thought they would have been "up and doing" on learning that tigers had again made their appearance in the New Territory.

Gadzooks! Somebody has been busy. He or she or it has worried over our street nomenclature and "to prevent confusion" has devised new names for a number of our thoroughfares. In some instances the duplication has been remedied, but in others the change is

not likely to make for clarity but to make confusion worse confounded. For instance if the name of Chater Street in Hongkong was changed there was surely no occasion to alter Chater Street in Kowloon. First, Second, Third, Fourth and Fifth Streets in Yaumati always suggested a certain proximity which will be completely lost under the new names which have no advantage in clearness. Somebody might try again. The present result of renaming our streets is far from satisfactory.

My attention was arrested on glancing through a home paper the other day by a heading that the queue was in danger, and naturally I read on expecting to obtain some interesting information about China from such a fertile source. I was disgusted however to find that the queue was not the Chinaman's plait of hair but the system of obtaining admission to unreserved portions of theatres or football matches, which it appears was threatened by the proprietors of a Manchester theatre being summoned for causing an obstruction. The magistrate held that the queue was not a public nuisance, and the admission to theatres will be conducted on the old lines. So the queue is saved and we may rest content.

The Manila *Cable News-American* declares "we will not believe that Gomez can be sent, will be sent, or is in jail until we see him there with our own eyes." Roderick Random is not the only one who would like to know what is meant by that. Does the writer expect to be sent to jail also, or does he contemplate a pleasure excursion to the place of incarceration in order to feast his eyes on the imprisoned agitator? American newspapermen are so enterprising that there is no telling what they will do in order to obtain copy.

Hongkong may be slow in many things, but I don't think we are likely to follow the example of the Philippine Government, which is urged to approve a bill for curtailing the working hours of government servants in the afternoon. It is said that it is almost impossible to do good work there, during April, May and part of June and it is proposed to limit the working hours of clerks making them from 7.30 to 12.30. We certainly do not pamper our civil servants to that extent.

A Malay newspaper reports: "About four days ago a woman at Sungai Besi gave birth to three children, all male. Her husband is a vegetable gardener. Two years ago she gave birth to twins." It may be due to my ancestry, but I cannot discover the subtle connection between vegetable gardening and triplets.

Of course we who are out in the East have no personal interest in the old age pensions which have been introduced at home. We can make enough to keep ourselves out of the workhouse, but still we can take an interest in the less fortunate people who grow old at home. The following story was not told at the Devonian dinner. It is more modern. Here it is:

First Old Devonshire Woman: Have 'ee been able to get your old age pension?

Second Old Woman: Es; I had me papers, and the fella asked me if I'd ever had any property and got rid of it. I told 'em the only property I ever had was 'leven children, and I got rid o' they, and the Lord hath a-bin pleased to take me husband too.

There is lots of life in that conception of parentage and marriage still, in spite of the centuries.

RODERICK RANDOM.

Archdeacon Moule, of Ningpo, announces that the Bishop Hoare Memorial Chapel in Trinity College, Ningpo, will very shortly be commenced. A very excellent design for a Chapel, to seat 150 persons, he says, has been prepared by Mr. H. M. Tarrant, of Shanghai and estimates have been obtained. The inclusive cost of the building, with seating, lighting etc., will be about \$9,200, towards which \$7,400 has already been received. Archdeacon Moule is quite sure that the remaining \$1,800 will be forthcoming, as soon as the need is realized by those who valued the life and character and the work of the late Bishop.

HONGKONG.

The British cruiser *Andromeda* arrived in port on Mar. 21 with a crew for the *Bedford* on recommissioning.

Mr. S. B. C. Ross has been appointed to act as District Officer in the New Territories during the absence on leave of Mr. E. R. Hallifax.

Capt. K. H. M. Watson, R.G.A., Hongkong, is to relieve Capt. Badham Thornhill in command of the Hongkong-Singapore Company R.G.A. at Singapore.

William Nuttall, a Post Office employee, was brought before Mr. Kemp at the Magistracy on Mar. 20th charged with removing postage stamps from nine packages. The case was adjourned.

A Chinese, the owner of several houses, was brought before Mr. Kemp at the Magistracy charged with failing to carry out certain structural work according to plans. A fine of \$100 was imposed.

Mr. Wood imposed heavy fines on gamblers who were brought before him on Mar. 19 at the Magistracy. The first and second in a gang of eighteen were fined \$50 each and the remainder had to pay \$10 each.

A Chinese, evidently with an ear for music, stole a dulcimer which he envied from a friend. He was arrested and brought before Mr. Kemp at the Magistracy on Mar. 24 and sentenced to six weeks' imprisonment.

The race ponies Coxcomb and Earthquake were on Mar. 20th offered for sale by public auction owing to dissolution of partnership. The former was bought in for \$300 and the latter was sold for \$100.

A fire occurred in a stationer's shop at No. 2 Pottinger Street on the 20th instant. The brigade responded promptly to the alarm, and soon had the outbreak under way. Considerable damage was done, but it is understood the damaged premises are covered by insurance.

Dr. Kayt has been appointed to act as Health Officer of the Port and Inspector of Emigrants, Dr. F. Grone to act as second Health Officer of the Port and Inspector of Emigrants and Dr. Aubrey to act as assistant Health Officer of the Port and Inspector of Emigrants during the absence on leave of Dr. G. P. Jordan.

A number of deportees arrived here on Tuesday and Wednesday from Singapore, nine coming the first day and eighteen the second. They will be passed on from here to their native places. It is remarkable that most of the men who come from Singapore have their bodies covered with morphine injection marks.

The annual sports in connection with St. Stephen's College were held on the 23rd inst. on the Jockey Club ground, which had been kindly lent for the occasion. There was a large attendance which included Bishop Lander, and the band of the Rajputs under Bandmaster Coke gave agreeable selections during the afternoon.

Exemplary sentences were imposed at the Magistracy on Mar. 26 on two natives, who were charged with assaulting a coppersmith and obstructing P. C. Taylor in the execution of his duty. One was committed to prison for twelve months' hard labour and ordered to be exposed in the stocks for three hours, the other being ordered to prison for six months and a like exposure in the stocks.

A Chinese correspondent writes to us with reference to the delay in filling up the vacancy on the Sanitary Board "Although Mr. Lau Chu Pak has agreed to serve again," says the writer, "yet he has said that he is now very busy and will be absent very often; therefore whoever is to be his colleague on the Board must have ability to speak out clearly for us, and not allow bad laws to pass which will give us trouble."

Mr. J. H. Scott, senior partner of the firm of Messrs Butterfield and Swire, left for England on Mar. 20th by the P. and O. steamer *Macedonia*. The progress of the launch conveying Mr. and Mrs. Scott across the harbour to the liner was marked by a fusillade of crackers, while the China Navigation Company's steamer *Tean* (Captain A. W. Outerbridge) which was moored in the stream opposite the Ferry Wharf was dressed and had suspended between the masts in large letters the words *Bon voyage*.

During the week-end several Europeans offered very unedifying spectacles. On the 21st inst. one, evidently a beachcomber, was seen lying on the pavement in front of a godown at Wanchai, fast asleep. On Sunday night another European chose the street for his couch, and thinking he was in bed he took out his two watches and placed them in the kerb. The police are now looking for the owner of the watches.

The second fire in the Colony during the week-end took place on Sunday night about eleven o'clock in the top floor of the house 43 Gough Street. The flames, however, spread to the top floor of No. 45, and the superstructure of both houses was destroyed before the Fire Brigade arrived and extinguished the fire. The outbreak was due to a defective flue. The inmates were drying firewood and the flames caught the flue and set fire to the house. The inmates got out of the house in time, but the damage to property is estimated at \$2,000, most of which is believed to be covered by insurance.

We learn that Mr. Chau Siu Ki was nominated by H.E. the Governor for the seat on the Sanitary Board vacated by the retirement of Mr. Fung Wa Chun. Mr. Chau, while appreciating the honour, found it impossible to accept the office as his business affairs make such demands upon his time. He is the director of several Chinese shipping companies and land companies and is greatly interested in the University undertaking, having devoted a considerable amount of his time to this work and making several trips to Canton in furtherance of the scheme.

An interesting prosecution took place before Mr. Kemp at the Magistracy on Mar. 24th. Sam Chak Yee who is not without means, took his servant with him to Canton and when they returned yesterday he, it was alleged, sent the boy ashore first with a jar which was supposed to be cakes and told him to go to the house and have his food prepared for him. The Opium Farmer's staff however had a look at the jar and found that it contained opium. The man disavowed all knowledge of the boy, and the Magistrate said he could not convict on uncorroborated evidence and the defendant was discharged.

The many friends of Mr. James Rankin, C.P.R. agent in Kobe, (who was for some time in the Hongkong Office) will be interested to hear of his marriage at St. Giles' Cathedral, Edinburgh, to Miss Jessie Noel Clouston, third daughter of the late Dr. Charles T. Clouston. Mr. Edwards, of Peking, according to a home paper, was best man. We believe this is Mr. F. W. Edwards, of the Eastern Extension Telegraph Co's service, an old resident of Hongkong, who, by the way, is now returning on the *Hakata-maru* after a year's holiday, to take up his duties at Peking. Dr. J. B. Fowler and Dr. Kilpatrick, both well known in Kobe and Mr. J. Cameron, formerly of Kobe, were among those present at the ceremony.

THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT AND THE PRATAS ISLANDS.

The Japanese Consul on Mar. 23rd received an official telegram in the Japanese language on the subject of the Pratas Islands reported in the Chinese press to have been "seized by Japan." The English version of the telegram as translated by Mr. T. Matsuda, who represents in Hongkong the Tokyo Independent newsagency, is as follows:—

The Imperial Japanese Government has hitherto supposed the Pratas Islands to belong to no particular country, and had never recognized it as a part of the Japanese Empire. This being the case, if it can be shown that the Island belongs to China, the Japanese Government will not hesitate to recognize Chinese sovereignty over the Island. In that case, however, due protection by the Chinese Government is evidently required for those Japanese who commenced their pursuits there *bona-fide*, in the belief that *de facto* no Power exercised sovereignty. The Imperial Japanese Government has a few days ago given the necessary instructions to the Minister and Consuls in China with a view, in communicating the above opinion to the Chinese Government, to reaching a fair settlement of the matter.

CANTON.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT].

March 18th.

HOW THE OPIUM LAW IS ENFORCED.

It is an open secret that opium can be bought at almost any prepared opium shop in the City without the production of a license. After all the talk about earnestness in putting the evil down, this state of affairs is simply scandalous. Somebody is making a good "squeeze" in the opium business or there must be a sad lack of energy displayed by those entrusted with the duty of seeing that all the opium decrees are enforced. One wonders what the police are doing, as they have repeatedly received stringent orders to arrest and punish all offenders.

Thenew wooden licenses were taken out by only a few of the lower classes who obeyed the letter of the law. The middle and upper classes are indulging in their daily smoke with impunity.

The public opium divans have been closed, it is true, but clandestine smoking of opium among all classes is still in full swing, and the opium laws are ignored. What is the use of holding Opium conferences if the Chinese Authorities show such leniency in the application of the so-called stringent laws for the suppression of opium smoking?

BRAWL AT THE HO-NAM THEATRE.

During the performance on Wednesday evening it is reported that a party of petty officers tried to get into the theatre without tickets. A quarrel ensued which soon degenerated into a free fight. Pandemonium reigned for a while and the theatre was closed. Over 20 of the fighters were severely injured and during the panic that prevailed many of the crowd seeking for rapid exit received minor injuries. Women were trod upon and their clothes torn. The Police were powerless and were the first to clear out on finding that they were out-numbered. The Theatre owners are reluctant to employ a police guard to prevent disturbance at the theatres here, as the latter usually take advantage of the situation by filling the stalls with their comrades and friends who naturally pay nothing to get in, at any rate to the theatre owners.

CANTON-HANKOW RAILWAY.

Minister Tai Hung Chi and the high Cantonese officials in Peking have called on the 72 Trades Guild and the Charitable Institutions here to inform them that there must be a Government Bureau in Canton for superintending railway affairs and to persuade them to accept the situation. The telegram states that this kind of supervision is exercised in all foreign countries.

This the shareholders of the Company will no doubt accept, on the condition however that the Bureau will not interfere with the working of the Company, as the merchants and the Railway Board of Directors appear to be quite able to manage their own affairs, without the assistance of the officials. The Bureau's only duty is to see that the merchants carry out the undertaking according to the terms of the agreement, and also to give every assistance possible that may be required, for instance, in the buying of land, furnishing guards etc, etc. It is evident that its functions must be restricted to such matters; if the Bureau is maintained, in no case will it be allowed to interfere with the management of the Company's affairs.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Circulars have been distributed by the Self-Government Society convening a meeting for the purposes of discussing the following subjects:—

1. To obtain evidence and get witnesses to prove the former Macao boundary.
2. To discuss the situation of the Chinese who are said to be ill-treated in Java.

The Board of War in Peking has directed the local Authorities here to go into the question of the delimitation of Chinese waters around the Province of Kwangtung and to draw up a map for same as soon as possible.

Comm. Z. H. Volpicelli, Consul-General for Italy in South China, has arrived here and will call on Admiral Li Tsun this afternoon to discuss some important matters.

SUPREME COURT.

Tuesday, March 23rd.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR MR. H. H. J.
GOMPERTZ (PUISNE JUDGE.)

A DEFECTIVE PARTY WALL.

Action was brought against G. Bertolone by the Fong Kee Trading Co. to recover \$172.26 for alleged damage done by water leaking into their premises.

Mr. H. K. Holmes appeared for the plaintiffs, and Mr. E. J. Grist (of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist) for the defendant.

Mr. Holmes said the claim was for damage caused by water which percolated the party wall dividing defendant's and plaintiff's premises. Defendant's premises backed on the houses in Chin Loong Street. Plaintiffs had a Godown at No. 3, Chin Loong Street, and the wall on the Queen's Road side was the division wall between that godown and the defendant's premises. On or about January 9th water percolated through the lower portion of this wall into the plaintiffs' godown, in which a quantity of goods, mostly non-perishable, were stored. Certain of the perishable articles were injured by water. The defendant, sometime after his tenancy commenced, had certain alterations made to the rear portion of his premises, and a slop sink was put up at the corner abutting on this party wall.

His Lordship—There has been some money paid into Court; so the liability to some extent is, I suppose, admitted?

Mr. Grist said he did not admit any liability in paying the money in, because, had the plaintiff given his client notice at the time he suffered the damage they would have been in a position to inspect it, as well as the wall complained of. But he did nothing of the kind: he simply complained to his landlord, who had the wall cemented. So far as defendant could tell, no further damage was done after that. Undoubtedly it was the duty of the plaintiff to have ascertained his damage at once, and to have minimised that damage as much as possible. Instead of this he allowed the matter to stand over until January 9th, when he wrote in a letter claiming \$172. Had he taken due diligence, opened the cases at once and seen what damage was done, in all probability the damage would not have amounted to \$25. Unless he had taken that particular action, Mr. Grist submitted that he was not entitled to recover damages at all because he so contributed towards the damage as to make what damage he did sustain unascertainable.

Plaintiff, after giving evidence as to the extent of the damage to his goods, was cross-examined by Mr. Grist.

What class of goods were these?—Papers and corn and bunion plasters.

How many cases did you have?—One.

Was it in the same state when you opened it as it is now?—Yes.

Why didn't you approach the defendant as soon as you discovered the damage?—Why should I approach him? He is of a different caste.

As a matter of fact you looked to your landlord to make good the damage?—Yes.

And it was only after you could get no satisfaction out of the landlord, who is a Chinaman like yourself, that you attempted to get the money out of the foreigner?—The person who has caused the damage is the person who should pay the money.

Senior Sanitary Inspector John Reidie deposed to inspecting plaintiff's godown on January 13th and finding about two inches of water on the floor.

In cross-examination witness said the water had percolated through the party wall.

Sanitary Inspector C. E. Frith said he visited the godown on January 14th and found sullage water percolating through the wall. Notices were served on defendant when he started the business that he must comply with the bye-laws.

After hearing further evidence his Lordship reserved judgment.

Thursday, March 25th.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT
(CHIEF JUSTICE).

A RESOLUTION CONFIRMED.

In the matter of the Weihaiwei Land and Building Co., Ltd. Sir Henry Berkeley, K.C., who was instructed by Mr. H. G. C. Bailey (of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master) appeared in support of a petition to confirm a resolution passed for the reduction of the capital of the Company. The reduction, he said, had been rendered advisable because of the uncertainty of the length of tenure of the island. The application was made under sections 59 to 71 of the Companies Ordinance of 1865, and the rules 73 to 91 in the schedule. These sections and rules were identical with similar provisions in the English Companies Act.

His Lordship—I don't think I have anything to do with the motive?

Sir Henry Berkeley—You have in a way when you come to consider the further prayer of the petition to permit the words "and reduced" to be dispensed with. The motion is mentioned to show that the Company is not reducing its capital because of any losses, or because it is in any way likely to be insolvent, but because it has more money than it can dispose of profitably. For this reason it is proposed to return to the shareholders five taels per share. The petition asks that the capital be reduced from taels 250,000 divided into 10,000 shares of taels 25 each, to Taels 200,000 divided into 10,000 shares of Taels 20 each.

His Lordship—What is the object of the Company?

Sir Henry Berkeley—The object was to acquire land and buildings in Weihaiwei.

His Lordship found the papers in order, and granted the petition.

IN BANKRUPTCY.

THE RULE OF PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS.

His Lordship referred to a rule mentioned by Mr. Grist a fortnight ago regarding the time when a public examination should take place. He said he had discussed the matter very fully with the Official Receiver, and had come to the conclusion that the English practice must prevail, and that a public examination could be held at any time; and adjudication could come on in accordance with the wishes of the creditors at a public meeting.

A MISUNDERSTANDING.

Re the Kwong Yat Cheung firm. Application to rescind a receiving order.

Mr. G. H. Wakeman, Official Receiver, informed his Lordship that this was the case in which he had reason to complain of the conduct of the debtor. He had since seen debtor's solicitor, and thought there appeared to be some misunderstanding, as apparently the debtor had been advised that it was not necessary to comply with the requirements of the Ordinance. Since he had gone into the matter he did not see why the receiving order should not be rescinded.

Mr. Grist announced that he appeared in support of the application.

The Official Receiver—I think it should be understood, my Lord, that debtors should not be allowed to defy the Court in this way.

The debtor was called and questioned by his Lordship.

You got your notice?—Yes.

What did you do with it?—Left it in the shop.

Is that the way you treat all papers that come to you?—I keep them there.

Did you read it?—Yes.

And you thought it did not mean anything?

—I did not take it in that light; I thought everything was settled, and there was no need to come.

You know, it is really contempt of Court; but the Official Receiver has looked into the matter and agreed to let it pass.—I dare not do it again.

His Lordship rescinded the order.

A SANCTIONED SALARY.

Re D. R. Captain.

Mr. C. F. Dixon (of Messrs. Hastings and Hastings) who appeared for the debtor, made application for a salary of \$100 to be paid him out of the estate for acting as interim manager

of the business. Since the adjudication last Thursday the business had been sold as a going concern.

His Lordship—To whom?

Mr. Dixon—To a gentleman from Canton.

His Lordship—Then he is the gentleman to pay the salary.

Mr. Dixon—No, bought the business from yesterday. The Official Receiver concurs in the application, and he has endorsed his consent on the summons.

The application was allowed.

Saturday, March 27th.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR MR. GOMPERTZ
(PUISNE JUDGE).

A DEFECTIVE PARTY WALL.

His Lordship delivered his decision in the action brought against G. Bertolone by the Fong Kee Trading Co. to recover \$172.26 for alleged damage done by water leaking into their premises.

Mr. H. K. Holmes appeared for the plaintiffs and Mr. E. J. Grist (of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist) for the defendant.

His Lordship found that no precautionary measures had been taken by the defendant, therefore judgment and costs would be entered for plaintiffs.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE MINISTERING CHILDREN'S
LEAGUE.TO THE EDITOR OF THE HONGKONG
"DAILY PRESS."

March 24th, 1909.

SIR, - Yesterday a gathering of young folks belonging to the Ministering Children's League was assembled in the garden attached to the Bishop of Hongkong's residence. This Society has been for some time established in this island, and at Kowloon, introduced by Mrs. May, the popular and energetic wife of the Colonial Secretary. So actively was the work of the League carried on in this locality that I understand that last year no less than £100 was realised; and divided amongst various charities.

It may be of some interest to your readers to know that this world-wide League started, now many years since, in Lord Meath's and my house in London; its object being to train young people in unselfish ways and especially to teach them how to be of service to those who suffer. Each branch, as it starts, is invited to take up some definite charitable work, and, though the Society was by no means established just for the purpose of inaugurating charitable institutions, yet no less than 20 buildings devoted to religious and benevolent work are scattered far and wide about the globe.

England can boast of eight of these, Australasia claims five, while in the United States, Egypt, Russia and elsewhere "ministering" hands have been actively at work to brighten the lot of the poor, the sick, and the suffering. The League is now being introduced into Japan—where it has found warm supporters.

Last year, at a time when I was very unwell in Germany, and unable to attend to the work of the League, I received from two high dignitaries of the Church in Australia, assurance of the good and lasting work done by the League in the Colonies.

The Ministering Children's League is undenominational; it exists only to do good and to teach the young that happiness lies, not in the direction of self-gratification, but in self-sacrificing devotion to lofty aims, serving God by serving fellow-man.

The Central Office of the Society which has found favour not only in British dominions but in a rapidly increasing number of foreign lands, is at 83 Lancaster Gate, London—the house where it was originally founded—and I have the privilege of being its Central Hon. Secretary. Mrs. May, will, I am sure, kindly give any local information which may be required respecting this Association.—I remain, Sir, Yours faithfully.

M. T. MEATH.

Government House, Hongkong.

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

Minutes of a meeting held by the General Committee in the Chamber Room, St. George's Building, on Friday, the 12th March, 1909, at 3.30 p.m. Present:—Hon. Mr. E. A. Hewett (Chairman), Mr. J. R. M. Smith (Vice-Chairman), Hon. Mr. W. J. Gresson, Messrs. A. Babington, J. W. C. Bonnar, G. Friesland, D. R. Law, H. E. Tomkins, E. Shellim, H. A. Siebs, and E. A. M. Williams (Secretary).

COMMITTEE.

The CHAIRMAN welcomed the new member of the Committee, Mr. H. A. Siebs.

MINUTS.

The Minutes of the last Committee Meeting held on the 5th December, 1908, were confirmed.

OBSERVATION STATION AT LAICHIKOK.

The following reply from the Government was received:—

Colonial Secretary's Office,
2nd February, 1909.

SIR,—Referring to your letter of the 15th ultimo on the subject of the Regulations for the quarantine station at Laichikok I am directed to state that this Government propose to publish the enclosed amended regulations.

2. These amendments will bring the local procedure into line with that obtaining in Singapore, and it is hoped that they will satisfy the requirements of your Chamber.—I am, Sir, Your obedient servant.

F. H. MAY,
Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary,
The Hongkong Chamber of Commerce.

Enclosure.

Regulation made by the Governor-in-Council on the . . . day of . . . 1909 under Section 23 of the Merchant Shipping Ordinance, 1899 (Ordinance No. 10 of 1890).

"The Instructions for Owners or Agents of Infected Vessels made by the Governor in Council on the 23rd day of November, 1908, and published in Government Notification No. 852 of 1908 are hereby amended by the deletion of Instruction 1 (e) and by the substitution for Instruction 2 of the following:—

2. In addition the Owners or Agents aforesaid shall pay to the Government such charges as the Health Officer of the Port, by certificate under his hand, may certify to have been incurred by the Government for medical comforts, for the cleansing and disinfection of the vessel, or of the merchandise on board of her, from which the passengers and crew have been removed, and for the burial of the bodies of any of the passengers or crew who may die in the Station. They shall also refund to the Government the cost of scavenging the Station at a rate of $\frac{1}{2}$ cent per head per day of the passengers and crew.

Hongkong Chamber of Commerce,
8th February, 1909.

SIR,—I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your reply to the Chamber's letter of 16th ultimo on the subject of the Regulations for the Quarantine Station at Laichikok, and to state that this will receive the consideration of my Committee at their next meeting.—I am &c.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

Hon. Mr. F. H. May, C.M.G.,
Colonial Secretary.

It was decided to reply that the Committee approved of the amended regulations under Section 25 of the Merchant Shipping Ordinance 1899 (No. 10 of 1890), and to thank His Excellency the Governor for the consideration shown to the views of the Chamber in the matter.

SEVENTH CONGRESS OF CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE OF THE EMPIRE.

Acknowledgement of Chamber's reply by London Chamber:—

Oxford Court, Cannon Street,
London, 11th January, 1909.

DEAR SIR.—I beg to thank you for your letter of December 9th, contents of which, I note.

I trust that a representative from your Chamber will find it possible to attend, and

would ask you to let me know as soon as possible in order to facilitate arrangements.—Yours faithfully,

KENRIC B. MURRAY,
Secretary.

To the Secretary.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

REGISTRATION OF TRADE MARKS.

The following letter from the Government was received:—

Colonial Secretary's Office,
26th February, 1909.

SIR,—With reference to your letter of the 5th November copy of which was forwarded to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, I am directed to inform you that His Excellency the Governor is in receipt of a despatch from the Secretary of State for the Colonies to the effect that the representations of the Chamber of Commerce on the subject of the protection in China, Corea and Japan of British trade marks registered in Hongkong have been placed before the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.—I am, &c.,

F. H. MAY,
Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary,
The Hongkong Chamber of Commerce.

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION OF THE 26th SEPTEMBER, 1906.

The following letter from the Government was received:—

Colonial Secretary's Office,
26th February, 1909.

SIR,—I am directed to forward a copy of a despatch addressed to this Government by the Secretary of State for the Colonies together with a copy of the Memorandum referred to therein, and to enquire whether your Chamber are of the opinion that this Colony should adhere to the International Convention of the 26th September, 1906.

2. I shall be glad if the memorandum may be returned.—I am &c.,

F. H. MAY,
Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary,
The Hongkong Chamber of Commerce,

[Circular.]

Downing Street,
21st January, 1909.

SIR,—I have the honour to refer to Lord Elgin's Circular despatch of the 10th April, 1907, transmitting a memorandum on the International Conference on Labour Regulation, held at Berne, in September, 1906, and to inform you that His Majesty's Government have now adhered to the International Convention of 26th September, 1906, respecting the prohibition of the use of White Phosphorus in the manufacture of matches.

2. The text and translation of this Convention were annexed to the memorandum enclosed in the despatch under reference.

3. I am to enquire whether you desire that the Colony under your Government should adhere to this Convention.—I have &c.,

CREWE.

The Officer Administering the Government of

The Enclosure was laid on the table.

CERTIFICATES OF DISCHARGE TO CHINESE SEAMEN.

The following letter from the Government was received:—

Colonial Secretary's Office,
30th January, 1909.

SIR,—I am directed to forward for the observation of your Chamber a copy of a letter addressed to this Government with enclosures in original regarding of continuous certificates of discharge to Chinese seamen.

2. I shall be glad if the enclosures may be returned.—I am, &c.,

F. H. MAY,
Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary,
The Hongkong Chamber of Commerce.

[Copy.]

Harbour Department.

Hongkong, 12th January, 1909.

SIR,—I have the honour to make the following representations:—

2. In the year 1900 the Board of Trade instituted a form of "Continuous Discharge Certificates" to be issued only in Home Ports. The instructions on the subject are contained in Board of Trade (Marine Department) Circular No. 41 Colonial of August, 1900. In that circular, a copy of the preamble to which I attach, it will be seen that it was evidently intended to extend use of these new forms at some future date.

3. So far as we, in this Colony, are concerned, I think that the time has now arrived for us to issue a somewhat similar form in the case of Chinese seamen signing on and being discharged in the Colony, in ships on the Home run.

4. The new forms now issued at Home have proved most useful. To prevent a man from "sinking" unfavourable reports—in fact, contain a virtual history of his sea service.

5. In order to adapt the system to Chinese, it will be necessary for their photographs to be attached. My experience has shown me that a single, full face or $\frac{3}{4}$ face, photograph is not sufficient for identification: there should therefore be two photographs, one full face and one in profile. I attach a cancelled form—one of those issued at home—with an amended front sheet, such as I suggest should be employed here.

6. I suggest that these forms should be used only for ships on the Home run, at present, as until the Chinese understand them, there would be considerable difficulty in using them on the East. On the Home run most of the difficulties do not exist and the new form would be of great use at home ports, more especially in view of the Language Test.

7. If these forms are approved and instituted, it will be advisable that similar forms be used at other Far Eastern Ports in order that there may be uniformity, and also that their full value may be obtained, for they would lose much of their usefulness if restricted to but one port.—I have &c.,

B. R. H. TAYLOR,
Harbour Master.

The Honourable
The Colonial Secretary.

It was believed that the consensus of opinion among Shipowners at Home was that the new system had not resulted in the benefits anticipated. The Committee were of the opinion that the idea was impracticable when applied to Chinese seamen and if brought into force on the China Coast would be a decided disadvantage to British Shipping in obtaining labour.

The Committee were not prepared to support the scheme.

PETITION FOR LIGHTS ON KAPSING ISLAND AND TONG-KU ISLAND.

The following letter from Capt. R. D. Thomas on behalf of Masters of Vessels trading between Hongkong, Canton, Macao and Ports on the West River was received:—

S.S. Heungshan,
Hongkong, 6th March, 1909.

DEAR SIR,—On behalf of the Masters in command of vessels trading between Hongkong, Canton, Macao and ports on the West River, I beg to enclose herewith a copy of a petition sent to the Hon. Basil Taylor, Harbour Master, asking for more lights. Trusting that the Chamber of Commerce will approve of and see fit to support our petition.—I am &c.,

R. D. THOMAS,
Master s.s. Heungshan.

Hon. Mr. E. A. Hewett,
Chairman,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

[Copy.]

Hongkong, 5th March, 1909.

DEAR SIR.—We the undersigned Commanders of vessels trading to and from this Port deem it advisable in the interest of safe navigation that the following lights should be erected:—

1. That a light be placed on the Southern end of Kapsing Island. To act as a leading light across the Harbour to the Kapsing Moon Pass.

2. That a light be placed either on Tong Ku Island or Doulter Point. To act as a leading light into Brothers Channel and also for the West River Steamers passing between Tong Ku and Sau Chau.—We are, etc.,

CHAS. V. LLOYD, *Fatshan*
 W. C. VALENTINE, *Kinshan*
 H. D. JONES, *Honam*
 L. LAURENCE, *Tai On*
 H. W. HOLMES, *Lintan*
 JAMES CAMERON, *Shun Lee*
 CHAS. STEWART, *Chi-yuen*
 G. C. WILLIAMS, *Linan*
 REES LEWIS, *Kalgan*
 E. MONKMAN, *Kanchow*
 W. E. SAVER, *Chun Sang*
 J. S. SIDFORD, *Szechuen*
 SPENCER WILDE, *Hang Sang*
 W. M. BENSON, *Funan*
 W. M. MCINTOSH, *Shaishing*
 T. H. LISHMAN, *Foo Shing*
 T. H. CHRISTIE, *Canton River Pilot*
 E. MEMBERG, *Paul Beau*
 H. W. WALKER, *Kwong Tung*
 H. BRAETER, *Sun On*
 W. F. BICKARD, *Wai Shing*
 R. HOUGHTON, *On Sang*
 F. MOONEY, *Chip Sing*
 K. E. TUBBEN, *Ichang*
 J. MCARTHUR, *Mefoo*
 R. D. THOMAS, *Heung Shan*
 E. S. CROWE, *Kwong Sai*
 R. RAMSAY, *Sui Tai*
 E. BIENAIMÉ, *Charles Hardouin*
 J. S. LEWINGDON, *Chan Po*
 A. N. SAATON, *Shui On*
 W. PALMER BALER, *Kwong Sang*
 R. T. ANDERSON, *Ting Sang*
 M. COULTNEY, *Yat Shing*
 G. TROBERG, *Kwan Lee*
 H. F. N. WALKER, *Lienshing*
 J. MEATHREEL, *Anhui*
 A. E. SANDBACH, *Choy Shang*
 W. H. LUNT, *Kwong Tai*
 J. H. BROWN, *Chenau*
 W. S. THOMAS, *E Sang*
 J. MCGINTY, *San Cheung*
 R. A. BIRS, *Sui On*
 J. McCLEMENTS, *Sau Ui*
 G. W. EEDY, *Tientsin*
 W. M. WALKER, *Tong Shing*
 I. C. C. AGAART, *Palamberg*
 ROBT. G. PARAMORE, *Feiching*
 E. EVANS, *Hoi Sang*

To the Hon. Basil Taylor,
 Harbour Master, Hongkong.

The Committee decided to write to the Government in support of the petition made by the masters of River and Coasting Steamers. The Lights petitioned for were not only useful but actually necessary for safe navigation. The Chamber's opinion was that the suggested erection of a light on the Southern end of Kapsing Island should be the first to receive the consideration of the Government.

The following has since been forwarded to us for publication.

CONTINUOUS CERTIFICATES OF DISCHARGE TO CHINESE SEAMEN.

The following reply to Government was sent:—
 Chamber of Commerce,
 18th March, 1909.

SIR,—I have the honour to inform you that my Committee have now considered your letter of 30th January, 1909. (No. 483, 19-9) regarding the granting of continuous Certificates of Discharge to Chinese Seamen.

A similar system has been in force for some years with regard to British Seamen and my Committee understand that while the benefits conferred by this innovation are doubtful, it gives rise to considerable trouble to employers and has not resulted in the good anticipated when the scheme was inaugurated.

As applied to Chinese, the similarity of name so often found, and the difficulty of identification even when the Certificate bears a photograph, makes the scheme in the view of my Committee impracticable.

Another aspect of such a system on the China Coast would be a decided disadvantage to British Shipping in obtaining labour and my Committee are, therefore, unable to support the proposal put forward by the Harbour Master which, if adopted, would in their opinion increase the cost and difficulty in securing good seamen without conferring any benefit upon the shipowner in return.—I have, &c.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS, Secretary.

Hon. Mr. F. H. May, C.M.G.,
 Colonial Secretary.

QUARANTINE STATION AT LAICHIKOK.

The following reply was forwarded to Government:—

Chamber of Commerce,
 16th March, 1909.

SIR,—I have now the honour to state in reply to your letter of 2nd February, 1909, on the subject of the Quarantine Station at Lai-chikok, that my Committee approve of the amended regulations under Section 23 of the Merchant Shipping Ordinance, 1899, (No. 10 of 1899)

I am to ask you to convey the thanks of this Chamber to His Excellency the Governor for his consideration of its views in the matter.—I have, &c.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
 Secretary.

Hon. Mr. F. H. May, C.M.G.,
 Colonial Secretary.

THE PETITION FOR LIGHTS.

The following letter was sent to the Government:—

Chamber of Commerce,
 18th March, 1909.

SIR,—I beg to inform you that my Committee have had before them the copy of a widely signed petition of Masters of River and Coasting Vessels addressed to the Honourable the Harbour Master to the effect that:—

(1) A light be placed on the southern end of Kapsing Island to act as a leading light across the Harbour to Kapsing Moon Pass.

(2) and that a light be placed either on Tong Ku Island or Boulder Point to act as a leading light for turning into Brothers Channel and also for the West River Steamers passing between Tong Ku and Sau Chau.

My Committee consulted several of the principal shipping firms and from them learn that the lights petitioned for would be not only useful but are actually necessary for safe navigation.

In the opinion of this Chamber therefore, the light suggested in the first paragraph of the petition is one which is urgently required and should in their opinion receive the consideration of the Government; the erection of the latter light could be postponed temporarily if the condition of the Colony's finances render such a step desirable.

The Committee of the Chamber trust that this matter will receive the earnest consideration of His Excellency the Governor. I have, &c.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
 Secretary.

Hon. Mr. F. H. May, C.M.G.,
 Colonial Secretary.

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION OF THE 26th SEPTEMBER, 1906.

The following reply was sent to the Government:—

Chamber of Commerce,
 24th March, 1909.

SIR,—I am directed to reply to your letter of the 26th February, 1909 (No. 3699/1907) forwarding a copy of a despatch addressed to the Government by the Secretary of State for the Colonies and enquiring whether this Chamber supports the adherence of the Colony to the International Convention of the 26th September, 1906.

My Committee do not consider that restrictive measures of this nature should apply to a Colony employing Asiatic labour. In their opinion the labourer in this Colony is relatively better off than his European confrère and it will be time enough for the Colony to adopt protective measures when it can be shown that labour is unjustly treated by employers. The troubles facing a local employer are already great enough without unnecessarily adding thereto.

For these reasons my Committee regret that they cannot support the adherence of the Colony to the Convention.

I beg to return the Memorandum as requested.—I have, &c.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
 Secretary.

Hon. Mr. F. H. May, C.M.G.,
 Colonial Secretary.

FRENCH CONVENT.

DISTRIBUTION OF PRIZES.

More than ordinary interest was manifested in the annual distribution of prizes at the French Convent which took place on the 19th inst. The ceremony was largely attended, there being present in addition to H.E. the Governor and Captain Mitchell Taylor, A.D.C., Sir George and Lady Errington, Admiral and Madame Berrin, Lieut. Audouard, M. Gaston Liebert, French Consul, His Lordship Bishop Pozzoni, the French, Italian and Spanish fathers, as well as the Christian Brothers from St Joseph's and many ladies. On entering the visitors noted the quaintly dressed Chinese children standing in a cloistered way, while in the schoolroom itself small European children claimed attention by their pretty dresses and bright faces. Part of the school-room was curtained off for the ceremony, and this was beautifully decorated.

When the gubernatorial party entered, the larger children sang the National Anthem, and afterwards gave the chorus "Over the tarts." Then Father DE MARIA, read the report of the Inspector of Schools.

His Lordship Bishop POZZONI addressed the gathering. Speaking in English he said:—It is my first duty to express on behalf of the reverend Mother Superior and Sisters of the Convent their sincere thanks to your Excellency for your kindness in consenting to preside at the distribution of prizes to the scholars attending this school. I have already had the pleasure of welcoming you at the opening of the Calvaire, a work of charity, and now I am happy to see you here again for an educational purpose. Your Excellency's great personal interest in and keen appreciation of all that concerns education in Hongkong is a matter of such common knowledge in the colony that it is no surprise that despite the numerous calls on your time, you have been able to devote an afternoon to stimulate interest in this School. The report of the Inspector of Schools, which has just been read, is not quite so flattering as we would wish but the comments are capable of some explanation. The Reverend Mother tells me the teaching staff have taken the criticisms into their earnest consideration and hope that, with the addition in the personnel introduced since the last examination, greater efficiency will be secured. A factor which operated against better results last year is explained to me in the fact that the staff was numerically below that which could satisfactorily teach the number of children attending the School. Two teachers have since arrived and have taken up duties in the school. One of them has taken up the duties of head teacher. She is a French sister and has been in England for the required course of study, where she qualified and was granted the usual certificate. If there is anything in a name we may expect much from her, as her name Sophie, means wisdom, (laughter and applause). Her popularity in the school is demonstrated by a considerable increase in the number of scholars, some thirty per cent more than last year, the number having increased from sixty-five in 1908 to 85 in 1909. I regret to say that, owing to failing health, the Reverend Mother has been ordered home by her medical adviser. Wishing her a good passage and a speedy recovery, I hope that on her return she will find that the school is in the ranks with those classified in the first grade of the Government grant-in-aid schools. Again I have to thank Your Excellency and gentlemen for your kindness in being present to-day.

HIS EXCELLENCY then addressed the gathering. He said—My Lord Bishop, ladies and gentlemen, it is just about a year since I had the privilege of opening the daughter institution of this convent at the Happy Valley and I hope and believe that during the past year those destitute people who were welcomed by you in that home have found it a happy home in a happy valley. I took the occasion then to review briefly the objects and the scope of the work of the French convent in Hongkong and for the benefit of those who may perhaps chance to read my words who are not entirely familiar with the work I will just tell you in a few brief words what this

convent does. It receives Chinese foundlings to the number of some 1400 or 1500, and out of that number about half of them are restored to health and vigour who would otherwise in all probability have died in the streets. It receives about 100 Chinese adults in its hospital in addition to the large number of outpatients to whom medicine and treatment are supplied. Its doors are open to aged and destitute women, to children, who are blind or lame or destitute. They are received here and taken care of. It has about 170 little orphans who are maintained and educated within these walls. This is the charitable branch. To-day we are privileged to visit the educational side. In this building there is maintained a school for European children who number as we have just heard from his Lordship some 85 pupils which is an increase of which I may congratulate you of about thirty per cent. I am very glad also to congratulate you on the increase of your staff and sincerely hope with you, my lord, that you will earn next year the full grant in the higher grade of government schools (applause). We were all sorry to hear that the reverend Mother Superior will be compelled for reasons of health to go home and I join with you in earnestly hoping that her health may be restored and that she may soon come back again to the work she has so successfully prosecuted for so many years. It was my pleasant task the evening before last to welcome Admiral Perrin and the officers of the French fleet. I took occasion then in responding to a toast to refer to the glorious annals of France and to the common ties which bind our two nations together. Among the deeds of heroism which the annals of France can boast there is none greater than the silent devotion of those noble ladies who seek no public honours and are content to devote their lives day by day, year after year, to the unostentatious task of cheering the lives of the destitute and ministering to the helpless and hopeless, and teaching their pupils by example the high and noble standards of the Christian faith. The legions of France have marched under streaming banners and to the sound of martial music to many a glorious victory. Your banner is the sign of the Cross. Your music is the voice of gratitude of those whose sickness you have alleviated. Your victory and your reward is in the consciousness of work bravely done and bravely supported day after day and year after year. I spoke too of the ties which unite our nations together. There is no closer ties than the existence of this French Convent in the British Colony. These are the ties which bring us closer together and which teach us that there is no distinction of nationality in the common cause of humanity. (applause)

His EXCELLENCY then distributed the awards.

EUROPEAN AND HIS TRAM FARE.

INTERESTING CASE AT THE MAGISTRACY.

At the Magistracy on March 25th, before Mr. Wood. A. G. Pile, of the Naval Yard was summoned for having assaulted a tramway inspector. Mr. Steavenson appeared to prosecute and Mr. Otto Kong Sing defended.

Mr. Steavenson stated that on the evening of the 2nd March defendant and his wife boarded a tram car at Observation Place, travelling west. When the conductor applied to the defendant for his fare he produced a monthly ticket, and when asked for the fare of the lady he said he had a ten dollar note which he would give if the conductor would give him Hongkong money in return. The conductor said he had not enough Hongkong money and asked defendant to sign a chit which would be sent to his office in the morning. Defendant refused to sign his name and threw the paper away. The conductor called the inspector who was the complainant in this case. The latter approached with a view of seeing the tickets and defendant again refused to pay the lady's fare. The complainant, according to his instructions, would not allow a passenger to alight who had not paid his fare, and ordered the motorman not to stop the car, although defendant wished to get off at the Soldiers' Club, and defendant struck complainant and made use of abusive language. The car was stopped at Ice House Street.

The complainant said that if he had not been holding tightly he would have been knocked off the tram when defendant assaulted him.

Cross-examined—His instructions were not to stop the car if any passenger refused to pay his fare. He had looked at defendant's monthly ticket but omitted to take his name then.

The conductor stated that defendant pushed the complainant when the car was going.

Cross-examined—By "pushing" he meant that defendant tried to push past the complainant who barred his way and would not allow him to alight.

By the Court—Why did he push him?—Perhaps he wanted to make him fall down.

The motorman said defendant called the inspector a black cow.

Cross-examined—He called him "a black cow" once.

Do you understand what it means?—It means black cow.

P. C. Stewart spoke to having been called by the complainant who reported that defendant had refused to pay the lady's fare. Witness heard defendant say to the complainant "you black cur."

Mr. Otto Kong Sing said considerable correspondence had taken place over the case.

Defendant stated that when the conductor asked for the fares he showed him a monthly ticket and produced a \$10 bill asking for change in Hongkong money. The conductor said he had not enough Hongkong money. A few minutes later complainant boarded the car. Defendant showed him his ticket and made the same offer as to the \$10. The complainant wanted to retain the ten dollars and send the change next day, but he refused. He offered to send the ten cents to the office next day but the complainant refused. When the car reached the Soldiers' Club the complainant refused to allow him to alight. He went to get off but did not assault complainant who stood in his way. Next morning he reported the matter to the head office of the Tramway Company.

Cross-examined—He was not asked to give his name to the conductor. He was asked if he would write his name and he said he would not do so. He said he would send the ten cents to the office in the morning. He did not do so until the 7th. He refused to show his ticket a second time.

Mr. Steavenson—That is a breach of the conditions under which the monthly tickets are issued. They must be produced when asked by the company's servants.

His Worship said the inspector accelerated the assault. He imposed a fine of \$5 on defendant.

CHINA'S SERVICE OF LOANS AND REVENUE.

China's foreign loans and indemnity service called for sterling payments in 1908 as follows:—Service of loans raised before 1902, £3,575,066; service of Boxer indemnity loans, £2,821,420; service of railway loans, £901,677; total, £7,301,163. To meet these payments we have the Maritime Customs revenue of, say, £4,000,000 (deducting 10 per cent. for cost of collection), and earnings of railways, which may be roughly put down at £1,000,000, leaving a balance of about £2,300,000 (say 15 millions of taels) to be supplied from other sources. The amount to be paid under the same headings in 1909 is £7,427,450. Assuming that the Board of Revenue's annual statements of the provincial quota and remittances to the central government represent what we may call the visible assets of Peking (as distinguished from what the Capital levies in kind and in secret levies), we may estimate these remittances something between 60 and 70 millions of taels per annum. On this basis the fund remaining to the Central Government, after discharging its obligations abroad to meet all the needs of the Palace and Metropolitan Boards, may be estimated at Tls. 50,000,000—say £7,000,000—i.e. the revenue of a second rate European Principality. It has for some time been apparent to the more enlightened among Chinese officials that no country having pretensions to a place among the Great Powers of the world can continue thus to administer its affairs, and that, in the

absence of financial reorganisation, the Chinese Empire stands in imminent peril of insolvency (in spite of its undoubted resources), and thereafter to administration of its estate by a commission of its creditors. The men who now govern China, the party which has made its way to power since the death of the Emperor and the commencement of the Regency, are identified almost to a man with the hand to mouth policy and the old traditions, and it will require something more than the polite commonplaces of diplomacy to convince them of their danger, and their parlous financial state.—*Chinese Public Opinion.*

RENAMING HONGKONG STREETS.

It is notified in the Gazette that in order to prevent confusion arising from the existence of duplicate names of streets in Hongkong and Kowloon, His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to direct that the streets in the subjoined list be re-named as shown therein.

STREETS IN HONGKONG.

Old Names.	New Names.
Chater Street	Catchick Street
Albany Street	Tai Yuan Street
East Street	Tung Street
West Street	Sai Street

STREETS IN KOWLOON.

Chater Street	Peking Road
Des Vaux Road	Chatham Road
Garden Road	Hankow Road
Robinson Road	Nathan Road
Macdonnell Road	Canton Road
Elgin Road	Haiphong Road
East Road	Hanoi Road
East Avenue	Sainam Avenue
East Terrace	Wuchow Terrace

STREETS IN YAUMATI.

First Street	Kansu Street
Second Street	Pakhoi Street
Third Street	Saigon Street
Fourth Street	Ningpo Street
Fifth Street	Nanking Street
Kennedy Street	Woosung Street
Seventh Lane	Yunnan Lane
Fuk Shing Lane	Suchow Lane
Macdonnell Road	Canton Road
Station Street North	Shanghai Street
Station Street South	Shanghai Street
Six Street	Jordan Road

(to junction with Gascoigne Road.)
Eighth Street Bowring Street.
1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 6th Lane Notice boards to be removed with these numbers on them as the lanes are merely scavenging lanes.

Temple Street is to be continued northwards to Man Ming Lane, Yaumati. Portland Street is to be continued Southwards to the same point.

STREETS IN MONGKOKTSUI.

Macdonnell Road	Canton Road
Hill Street	Changsha Street
Nullah Lane	Shantung Lane
Station Street North	Shanghai Street

STREETS IN HUNGHOM.

Des Vaux Road	Chatham Road
Third Lane	Nanning Lane
Hill Street	Tientsin Street
Market Street	Wuhu Street
Station Street	Taku Street

STREETS IN FUNG TSUN HEUNG.

High Street	Newchwang Street
Praya	Chungking Street
Station Street	Foochow Street

PIRACY AT CASTLE PEAK.

A junk on its way from Hongkong to Canton laden with coal anchored on Tuesday night off Castle Peak. An oyster boat with four men came alongside, and the men, two of whom were armed with knives, drove the crew of the junk below, while they raided it, carrying off clothing, rice and \$10 in money. They made off in the direction of Deep Bay.

The export of Japanese cigarettes to Korea, Manchuria, China and India during last year is roughly estimated at about 1,000,000,000 lbs., of which 800,000,000lbs were consumed in Korea and Manchuria.

THE PUISNE JUDGESHIP.

FAREWELLS TO MR. JUSTICE WISE:
CONGRATULATIONS TO MR.
JUSTICE GOMPERTZ.

The Puisne Judge (Mr. H. H. J. Gompertz) on the 19th inst. received congratulations from the practising solicitors on taking his seat in the Supreme Court.

Mr. Hastings said that his Lordship would allow him on behalf of the solicitors practising in the Court to offer his Lordship their sincere congratulations on his appointment as Puisne Judge of the colony. His Lordship's tenure of the acting appointment had demonstrated the fact that he possessed a judicial mind, if the speaker might say so, and was firm in the administration of justice. His Lordship's predecessor was a man in a thousand, who was highly respected as a judge and beloved by many of them as a friend, and they rejoiced that his mantle had fallen on the shoulders of Mr. Gompertz. The traditions of the Bench were high and he was sure that his Lordship would worthily uphold them.

His Lordship, in reply, said he need hardly say that he was deeply touched by the very kind remarks which Mr. Hastings had made and which were wholly undeserved. He had experienced nothing but kindness and assistance from the members of the profession and he hoped that they would continue to afford him that help in the somewhat difficult tasks that sometimes fell upon a judge in this court. He appreciated the very kind, though undeserved, compliments all the more as he had reason to know of the very high standard of the profession.

An interesting ceremony took place at the Supreme Court on Mar. 22 when His Honour the Chief Justice called together members of the legal profession to bid farewell to Mr. Justice Wise, and to congratulate Mr. Justice Gompertz on being appointed his successor. Mr. A. Seth, i.s.o. Registrar, and Messrs. [G. A. Woodcock and C. D. Melbourne, Deputy Registrars, were seated in their assigned positions, while at the bar were Sir Henry Berkeley, K.C. (Acting Attorney-General), Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., and Mr. H. G. Calthrop. In the body of the Court were Mrs. Gompertz, Mrs. Pollock and the following members of the junior bar:—Messrs. F. B. L. Bowley (Crown Solicitor), H. L. Dennys, Sen., H. L. Dennys, Jun., C. D. Wilkinson, E. J. Grist, S. W. Tso, O. D. Thomson, P. M. Hodgson, A. Jackson, C. F. Dixon, P. Sydenham Dixon, F. P. Hett, Crowther Smith, J. H. Gardiner, A. Daniels, F. X. d'Almada e Castro, Leo d'Almada e Castro, Otto Kong Sing, H. K. Holmes, F. C. Barlow, P. W. Goldring, Reader Harris, Bulmer Johnson, H. G. C. Bailey, J. Scott Harston, F. B. Deacon and G. H. Wakeman (Official Receiver in Bankruptcy). The staff of Court interpreters, and the ushers and bailiffs were also in attendance.

The CHIEF JUSTICE—Mr. Attorney, I have asked you and the members of the Legal Profession to meet us here to-day, not to bury Caesar but to praise him: not to pronounce a funeral oration on a departed friend, but to say a few words of farewell to-day to one of the small minority who retires to rest from his labours whilst yet enjoying moderately good health, and one whose name, we hope, will, for many years to come, grace and embellish the list called the Pension List. It may seem presumptuous on my part to speak to the many who have known very much longer than I have done of the virtues of our friend Wise. But in the intimate relations which must exist between judges who have to work together, I came to know him very well, and I never knew one whose name by chance and whose instinct by nature better fitted him for the performance of the duties of a Justice of this Court. I knew him, as many knew him, as very wise, Sutors found him very summary, and indeed, the affectionate name of Summary Wise was almost inevitable. He was so summary in his methods that he himself was often astonished to find how sound he was. We come here to-day as well to welcome the coming as to speed the parting Judge, and I think the occasion is fitting to say a few words I have in my mind with regard to the Court in this Colony. The port of Hongkong claims to be the premier port in the world, and in like manner I think the Court

of Hongkong ought to claim the premier position among the Courts in His Majesty's dominions over sea; for here the East kisses the West and men of many nationalities flock and throng through the wide open door to see if something is not to be made out here; hence many disputes involving curiously complicated questions of law. Here, indeed, is a very hotbed of conflicts of law. Unlike our professional brethren elsewhere, who have somewhat attenuated theories to deal with, we have here to meet them face to face, to deal with them practically, in order to maintain the very high position which this Court ought to maintain. That is the duty and must be the constant endeavour of every Judge who sits upon this Bench; and I know from the past that in the future every Judge will be ably seconded by both branches of the Legal profession. To no one does this duty appear more a pleasure, or this endeavour more constant than in our good friend Gompertz. It seems to me that he really revels in unravelling knotty points of law. Well fitted and well chosen, he to-day takes his position permanently as a Judge of this Court, and I know I am right in saying that the Colony most cordially welcomes and approves his promotion. For myself I shall only say this: that I have never perhaps heard of an appointment, save perhaps one which His Majesty was pleased to make some four years ago, which has given me greater pleasure.

Sir HENRY BERKELEY—May it please you, my Lord. The Bar and the entire profession echo the sentiments and expressions of regret and appreciation regarding Mr. Justice Wise which have fallen from you, my Lord, the Chief Justice. Mr. Justice Wise, during the long tenure of the high office which he held with such distinction for many years, discharged the important and responsible duties of that office with marked ability. To the last he possessed the absolute confidence of all who appeared before him, which, added to his kindly nature and genial disposition, made him not only highly esteemed by the whole profession, but caused him to be regarded with feelings of affection deep and true. My Lords, we regret that the ties which so long bound us to that learned, able and conscientious Judge have at last been severed. My Lords, the Bar desire to offer their congratulation, and the members of the legal profession generally join therein, to his Lordship Mr. Justice Gompertz. We believe that he will worthily follow in the footsteps of his distinguished predecessor. We desire respectfully to add this assurance: that the announcement of the appointment of Mr. Justice Gompertz to fill the high office vacated by Mr. Justice Wise met with the complete satisfaction of the entire profession. I speak on behalf of the whole bar.

The CHIEF JUSTICE—The solicitors have a right of audience to-day.

Mr. DENNYS—My Lords, I did not expect to speak on this occasion as I understand that the Attorney-General was speaking not only on behalf of the Bar but of all the solicitors. But as your Lordship has kindly notified that I may address the Court I shall, as perhaps the oldest solicitor present, say that I have known Mr. Justice Wise since his arrival in the Colony. He was then clerk to Chief Justice Phillippo. Shortly after that he was called to the local bar and practised as a barrister. I think I may say I am the only solicitor here who ever gave Mr. Wise a brief as a barrister. I instructed him at Canton in 1883. Since then I have been before Mr. Justice Wise as Magistrate, I was before him when he was Registrar. I was working with him to a certain extent while he was Attorney-General, and, of course, I was before him many, many times in this Court while he presided over it as successor to Mr. Justice Snowden. My Lord, we had the greatest respect for Mr. Justice Wise as a conscientious lawyer, and socially we had a love for him which is very seldom felt between members of the profession and the president of the Court. I will not take up time by saying anything further as to Mr. Justice Wise. As to Mr. Justice Gompertz he has been long enough here for us all to know him well, and I may say on behalf of the solicitors that we were delighted when we heard of his appointment as successor to Mr. Justice Wise.

Mr. Justice Gompertz then took his stand to the rear of the Chief Justice, while Mr. A. Seth read the commission as follows:—

F. D. LUGARD, GOVERNOR.

EDWARD by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and of the British Dominions beyond the seas, King, Defender of the Faith, Emperor of India;

To our trusty and well beloved Henry Hessey Johnston Gompertz, Esquire, one of our Counsel learned in the law.

Now, know you that we, taking into consideration your loyalty, integrity and ability, of our special grace, certain knowledge and mere motion, have thought fit to constitute and appoint you the said Henry Hessey Johnston Gompertz to be Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court of our Colony of Hongkong and its Dependencies, from the twenty-first day of March, 1909, inclusive, to have, hold, exercise and enjoy the said office and place during Our pleasure with all the rights profits privileges and advantages thereunto belonging or appertaining, provided always that you the said Henry Hessey Johnston Gompertz do actually reside within our said Colony and do not quit the same without the previous permission of Our Governor of Our said Colony or of such person as may, for the time being, be charged with the Government thereof: And also that you execute the said office in your own person, except in case of sickness or other incapacity, and do in all other matters and things perform the duties thereof in a discreet and orderly manner.

In testimony whereof we have caused these our letters to be made patent and to be sealed with the public seal of Our Colony aforesaid.

Witness our trusty and well beloved Frederick John Dealtry Lugard, Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George, Companion of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, Companion of the Most Distinguished Order, Governor for the time being of Our said Colony this twenty-first day of March, in the year of Our Lord One thousand nine hundred and nine, and in the ninth year of Our reign.

By command,

F. H. MAY,
Colonial Secretary.

Mr. Justice GOMPERTZ, on resuming his seat, said—Mr. Chief Justice, Mr. Attorney-General, Mr. Dennys, I can only say I thank you with all my heart for those very kind words.

The Court then adjourned.

THE FLOGGING OF CRIMINALS
IN HONGKONG.

The Japan Mail asks:—

"Is it really necessary, we wonder, to add flogging to imprisonment in punishing Chinese criminals? So long as we can remember, the practice in the Hongkong Supreme Court has been such, and though occasional protests have not been wanting, the thing has gone on without interruption. The present Chief Justice, Sir Francis Piggott, is just the man to put a stop to the custom if he deemed that public morality would be served by so doing. Usage would count for very little in his eyes. Yet he shows no sign of a disposition to abandon the custom. On the 24th of February his Honour sentenced no less than 7 men to be whipped in addition to long terms of imprisonment. It seems to us, and it must seem, we think to all who pause to think, that by thus taking up and applying in a British Court of law a practice which figures among the recognised abuses of Chinese Courts, either the latter are justified or the former is degraded. English criminals are no longer flogged, because it is clearly recognised that such treatment fatally breaks down a man's self-respect and correspondingly diminishes his chances ever again becoming a respectable member of society. The penal tribunals thus become destructive of morality instead of constructive.

Does a Chinaman's self-respect belong to a category of lighter qualities? Is he such an inferior order of being that his sense of shame is not impaired by treatment which reduces an Englishman to despair? If so, then we have no right to preach reform to the Chinese; no right to attack them on the ground that their laws are bad and their judiciary worse. They can answer simply, 'our laws suit us, and so does our method of administering them. You yourselves show by your practice that you do not esteem us worthy of better things.'

LORD AND LADY MEATH IN HONGKONG.

Lord and Lady Meath and Lady Violet Brabazon arrived on the 23rd inst. by s.s. *Kleist*, and are the guests of His Excellency The Governor.

During the forenoon Lord Meath, attended by Mr. E. D. C. Wolfe and Captain Taylor, A.D.C., visited Victoria School and Kowloon School and addressed the pupils on the meaning and hopes of the "Empire Movement." At Lord Meath's request, the pupils of both schools were granted a half holiday by the Inspector of Schools.

His Excellency and Lord Meath, attended by Captain Simson, watched the finals of the baseball team, after which His Excellency handed to the winning team the Cup presented by the Committee of Entertainment.

At 3.30 p.m., Lady Meath presided at a meeting of the Ministering Children's League held at St. Paul's College.

The following guests were invited to dinner at Government House to meet the Earland Counters—Sir George and Lady Errington, General Broadwood, Captain Heathcote, Mr. and Mrs. David, Mr. and Mrs. May, Mr. and Mrs. Pollock, Bishop of Victoria and Mrs. Lander, Sir Henry Berkeley, Mr. Wilder, Admiral Harber, Flag Lieutenant Leahy, Captain Fairfax, Judge and Mrs. Thayer.

The Earl and Countess of Meath and Lady Violet Brabazon proceeded to Europe by s.s. *Kleist* this on Wednesday.

THE MINISTERING CHILDREN'S LEAGUE.

ADDRESS BY THE COUNTESS OF MEATH.

"No day without a deed to crown it," is the motto of the Ministering Children's League, and the deed which crowned on Mar. 23, and which will long be remembered by the children of Hongkong, was the interesting address given by the Countess of Meath, foundress and hon. central secretary of the League.

The express purpose for which this League was founded was to teach the children of the rich to take an active interest in relieving the necessities of the poor.

There was a large attendance of ladies and children on the tennis court of St. Paul's College by the hour at which it was announced that Her Ladyship was to speak to the children.

Afternoon tea was served, and the prayer of the League was offered.

Her Ladyship then told the children that she was pleased to find herself in Hongkong. Not so long ago Mrs. May called to see her at home, and the Countess little thought then that she would have the pleasure of seeing the children of Hongkong and kind Mrs. May in the place where that lady had been working so hard. She should have been here a month earlier, but was glad of a delay which had enabled her to call at Japan and Shanghai, in both of which places excellent work had been done by the League. Her Ladyship continued in simple language, and with apt illustrations, to explain the objects of the League. She likened it to a young tree, the branches of which had extended north, south, east and west until branches had sprung up in different parts of Europe, Asia, Africa, America and Australasia. She told of the pleasant homes of the League for the unfortunate, and took the opportunity of thanking the children present very much for their subscriptions. A little girl in Japan, said her Ladyship, when asked what the League was, said it was three and a half miles. She did not wish the children present to think that it ministered only three and a half miles. It had to minister a great deal further; right round the big, big world. "Don't despise little deeds," said Lady Meath, "for you never know when a kind one bears fruit." When in Japan her Ladyship was very anxious to get hold of the English, French, German, Italian, American and any other children the League could lay hold of with white faces. She found, however, that they were always coming and going to other places, and then she thought that it would be a great point to start among the Japanese. She was cheered to learn that there would be branches

in Japan shortly. Not only were they going to start a branch in Shanghai also, for European and American children, but they had some hopes that in the course of time Chinese would be persuaded to join their beautiful League, and help in making the world a little bit better and happier. In conclusion, her Ladyship reminded those present that when Mrs. May last went home for a year the branch of the Ministering Children's League here practically disappeared. She trusted that such would not be the case again, and exhorted the children to carry on the charitable work, assuring them that their service would be blest (applause).

Interesting pictures of League homes were then shown, while light refreshments were distributed.

THE HONGKONG UNIVERSITY SCHEME.

The *N.-C. Daily News* in a leading article giving an outline of the Hongkong University scheme, adds:—

We cannot refrain from comparing this scheme with that which Lord William Cecil is actively advocating at Peking, namely, to establish a University in China to be organized under the auspices of Oxford and Cambridge. As has already been pointed out the latter is to be of an avowedly Christian character, its aim being at once to transplant our higher educational system and to propagate the Christian point of view. A meeting of influential men held in Peking decided that the scheme as contemplated was not practical and, as an alternative, they recommended the establishment of a system of scholarships similar to those founded by the late Cecil Rhodes. The Hongkong scheme is nothing if not practical, and certainly has prior claims on the support of British Universities and the British public. The question of a University for Hongkong is not a local one, but one of Imperial interest, and the prestige and influence of Great Britain will be increased and extended in China and throughout the Far East if the University is established. For this reason representations might be made to the Home Government and Home educationists to assist in raising the required sum for the endowment. It is true that the project is primarily for the Chinese, and in order to secure the support of the Chinese community both in Hongkong and South China definite and practical steps are being taken. But a nation that contributes large sums annually to educational work in China, over which it has little or no control, should respond in a hearty manner to the appeal to support an institution in a British colony which, from its inception, will be well-governed and of practical utility alike to Chinese and foreign youths who are living in the Far East.

MARRIAGE AT THE CATHEDRAL.

The marriage of Mr. G. G. Sutherland Forsyth, sub-accountant at the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, and Miss Marguerite Moir was quietly celebrated at St. John's Cathedral, on the 24th inst. The bride, who was charmingly attired, was attended by Miss Jacobs as bridesmaid, while Mr. J. F. Cox performed the duties of "best man." The officiating clergyman was the Rev. F. T. Johnson. The service was semi-choral, the only hymn sung being "O Perfect Love," while Mr. Denman Fuller played appropriate wedding music. After the ceremony a reception was held at the Government Civil Hospital by Dr. and Mrs. Bell, at which there was a large attendance of invited guests.

Mr. and Mrs. Forsyth leave for Home by the *Mongolia* on Saturday via America.

A Hongkong correspondent writing to *L'Avenir du Tonkin* mentions that during Admiral Perrin's visit here he will visit the Viceroy of Canton and discuss with him the question of the piratical attacks on the frontier of Tonkin. It is said that there are two thousand rebels in the mountains of Tai-yen Chau and that they are contemplating raids similar to those which have taken place on the border of Laos.

PROPERTY SALE AT CANTON.

An interesting property was sold at Canton by public auction on Saturday. The lot was No 52 on the Shameen, measuring approximately 12,645 square feet, together with the buildings erected on the lot. It is generally known as the "Condition lot," from the fact that the building was the old silk conditioning house, Mr. H. H. Fox, H. M. Acting Consul-General at Canton being trustee for the Conditioning House Company.

There was a reserve price on the lot based on the highest offer in writing previously submitted to the trustee. Starting at \$20,000, the property was knocked down after some very spirited bidding to the British American Tobacco Co. Ltd, at the sum of \$37,800. Among the bidders were Mr. Dent, Mr. Griffiths and Dr. Davenport. The latter we understand, wanted the site for a hospital.

The lot has a frontage of 90 feet and a depth of 140½ feet.

The price obtained for the property affords another indication of the confidence which is felt regarding the future of Canton. When the 82 lots on the British portion of the Shameen were put up for sale by public auction in 1861, it is recorded in "Treaty Ports of China and Japan &c." that "such was the competition at the time based on the expectation of flourishing trade, that the enormous sum of \$9,000 and upwards was paid in more than one instance for a lot, with a river frontage, measuring 12,645 square feet. Each lot measures 90 feet frontage by 140½ feet in depth. Rear lots brought about \$3,500 each."

The price originally paid for lot No. 52 was \$4,000, the purchasers being Messrs. Siemssen and Co. The dollar in those days was worth 4s. 5d.

A PROSPECTIVE RIVAL TO MACAO.

The possibilities of creating a Monte Carlo just beyond the New Territory has appealed to the imagination and to the speculative tendencies of several Chinese who, it is well known, have bought property in Samchun with a view to building gambling houses and hotels there. When the railway to Canton is completed, or the British portion to the Chinese border is finished and opened, it is expected that Samchun, a market city in Chinese territory close to the border, will offer facilities for the gambling which can only be enjoyed at present by a trip to Macao. The railway will take people there from the colony in a very little time and, if accommodation be provided, it is not unlikely that a big gambling centre will develop in the comparatively unimportant little city.

Such schemes are certainly contemplated. Whether they will be allowed to develop cannot, of course, be said. It is not unlikely that a condition of affairs which existed prior to the taking over of Kowloon City may be repeated. Then launches used to run daily to Kowloon city and to other parts of the peninsula, but principally to the former place, where fairly large gambling houses were allowed to flourish. On Saturdays and Sundays the launches were invariably crowded by people eager to have a "flutter," and it became so noticeable that the Hongkong authorities made representations to the Chinese authorities to repress these houses. This was done, but, as not infrequently happens, the ban was ignored occasionally and the evil developed again to its original extent when representations were again made and the houses were again closed.

There can be little doubt that should the gambling houses be built at Samchun they will be largely patronised from Hongkong. Many people who cannot afford the time for a trip to Macao will easily make the journey by rail to this city, enjoy their excitement over "yat, ye, sam, sze," and return to Hongkong in good time. Moreover should a man lose his all, he has always the consolation of being able to walk home if he did not take the precaution to buy a return ticket. Possibly the Hongkong Government may be induced to take action if the evil should become too pronounced, but, of course, it is rather early to discuss the happenings of that time.

THE HONGKONG REGATTA.

On the 20th inst. the Hongkong Regatta was held at Laichikok in ideal weather conditions. The sun shone brightly throughout the day, and the intermittent puffs of wind did not in any way interfere with the sport. The flagship was the commodious hulk known as the *Maple Leaf*, which did duty in Junk Bay when the flour mill was running, and adequate arrangements had been made on board for the reception of the large crowd of spectators who gathered during the afternoon. The Band of the Buffs arrived on board after tiffin, and played selections between events. His Excellency the Governor, accompanied by Captain Simson, Private Secretary, arrived on board late in the afternoon and stayed until Mrs. Basil Taylor had presented the prizes. The sport on the whole was interesting, but it is regrettable that there was not a more general understanding between members of the committee. Nobody seemed to be responsible for anything. For instance, although the Pressmen waited patiently all the afternoon for times of races, and were told that they would get them by and bye, they might have been still waiting on the flagship and then have had to go without them. The timekeeper disappeared, and nobody else knew anything about this part of the sport.

Many items on the programme were keenly contested, especially those in which British and American naval teams entered. The heroes of the afternoon, however, were the visitors from Canton, who carried off the principal rowing events. As oarsmen they were vastly superior to any of the local Club representatives, and won everything they entered with a safe margin. Results of the various events follow:—

JUNIOR FOURS.—Clinker built boats with coxswains. Open to all not competing in Open Pairs or Hongkong Challenge Cup. Distance: One mile.

Canton	1
Bow—E. Lund	10st 12lb
2—P. Pelz	12st 4lb
3—A. W. Purnell	11st 3lb
Str.—E. Danter	11st 2lb
Cox.—E. Schroeter	10st 0lb
Royal Hongkong Yacht Club	2
Bow—T. T. H. Brayfield	11st 2lb
2—W. B. Stanton	11lb 3lb
3—E. W. Carpenter	11st 6lb
Str.—F. S. Allen	12st 0lb
Cox.—G. A. Caldwell	8st 2lb

There were but two starters in the Junior Fours, which was won by Canton after an excellent race. The Yacht Club led in the first stages, but when half the distance was traversed, Canton drew level with the foremost crew and an excellent race home was witnessed. The boats were well together when the flagship was neared, but an extra spurt by the visitors carried them past the winning post about three feet ahead of the Yacht Club's team. It is interesting to note that these teams met in the Canton regatta, and on that occasion the Yacht Club secured a victory over the local team by a narrow margin.

NAVAL GIGS AND WHALERS.—Service boats and conditions. Crews from any Ship on the China Station. Distance: one mile. First prize \$20.00. Second prize \$10.00.

H.M.S. Kent	1
H.M.S. King Alfred	2
H.M.S. Monmouth	3

There were twelve starters for this event which proved to be an excellent race. The boats were despatched to a good start, and kept well together throughout, at the finish of the race there being only about two feet between the first, second and third boats. H.M.S. Kent's No. 1 crew were first home, the King Alfred's No. 1 crew being second, and the Monmouth's No. 2 crew third.

SENIOR PAIRS.—Open to crews representative of any Amateur Rowing Club. To be rowed in Clinker-built boats with Coxswain. Distance: One mile.

Canton	1
Bow—F. C. Herb	11st 0lb
Cox—E. Schroeter	10st 0lb
Str.—W. Imhoof	14st 0lb
Corinthian Yacht Club	2
Bow—C. J. Cooke	11st 10lb
Cox—F. P. Lenfesty	9st 0lb
Str.—J. Forbes	11st 6lb

A wide gap separated the two boats in this event at the starting line. They raced level for sometime, but eventually Canton drew ahead and in the final stages of the race proved themselves superior in every way to the Corinthian team. The race became a procession, the home team bringing up the tail end very far behind. The long, sweeping strokes of the Canton oarsmen rapidly carried them ahead of the Corinthians, and they won the race by about ten lengths.

THE NATHAN CHALLENGE CUP.—For four oars. Limited to Residents of Hongkong. Each crew to be drawn from a single unit which is defined as a Regiment, a ship, a Corps, the Volunteers, a Firm, or any other body of gentlemen working together at the same profession or calling. If any of the above units are not strong enough to provide a complete crew then any combination of two similar units may be made. A Club is not included in the definition of a Unit. Distance one mile.

H.M.S. King Alfred	1
Bow—J. Tovey	10st 9lb
2—W. C. Hicks	11st 0lb
3—R. D. B. Haddon	11st 0lb
Str.—C. T. B. Curtis	10st 2lb
Cox.—Douglas-Hamilton	9st 0lb
Storekeepers	2
J. Cruickshank	10st 4lb
R. L. Bridger	11st 6lb
A. E. Crapnell	11st 11lb
F. A. Wackintosh	12st 12lb
Cox F. M. Crawford	8st 13lb
Civil Service	3
E. B. Reed	11st 0lb
W. B. Stanton	11st 3lb
E. W. Carpenter	11st 6lb
F. A. Biden	11st 13lb
Cox G. A. Caldwell	8st 2lb

The three boats competing in this event got away together, and continued in company until half the distance was covered. Then the King Alfred four shot ahead and got home some four lengths ahead. The Storekeepers and the Civil Service put up a hard fight for second place, the Storekeepers just winning on the post.

RACE FOR BOATS OF THE AMERICAN FLEET. Distance: one mile.

U.S.S. Chatanooga	1
U.S.S. Cleveland	2
U.S.S. Galveston	3

Five boats entered the race for the American Fleet, and there was much of Yankee freshness in the excitement which prevailed throughout. Launches followed the competitors and kept up a continuous tooting, while the tars cheered lustily. The boats kept well together until the finish, the Cleveland drawing ahead in the final stages and winning by three-quarters of a length. The Galveston was second and the Chatanooga third. Most of the oarsmen pulled a short sharp stroke, the stroke of the crew first home being exceptionally short. The Chatanooga won the race on time allowance.

OFFICERS' GIGS AND WHALERS.—Open to Officers of the Fleet in Naval Gigs or Whalers. Distance one mile.

H.M.S. Monmouth	1
H.M.S. King Alfred	2

The two boats competing in this event, the King Alfred and Monmouth, put up an excellent race, the Monmouth winning on time allowance. They kept well together until the final stage, then the flagship men drew into the van, and although the Monmouth challenged, they were unable to overtake the King Alfred crew. The eight seconds start, however, gave them premier position, and enabled them to carry off the prize.

HONGKONG CHALLENGE CUP. Open to crews representative of any amateur Rowing Club. To be rowed in Clinker-built boats with coxswain.

Canton	1
Bow—F. C. Herb	11st 0lb
2—R. Johnson	11st 4lb
3—H. Appel	13st 0lb
Sir.—W. Imhoof	14st 0lb
Cox—G. Schroeter	10st 0lb
Corinthian Yacht Club	2
Bow—C. J. Cooke	11st 10lb
2—J. McKay	14st 0lb
3—T. Hynes	14st 0lb
Str.—J. Forbes	11st 6lb
Cox.—F. Lenfesty	9st 0lb
Royal Hongkong Yacht Club	3
Bow—Captain S. Barker	10st 10lb
2—Lieut. Collison-Morley	12st 6lb

3—H. W. Lester	12st 5lb
Str.—E. Davidson	11st 6lb
Cox.—G. A. Caldwell	8st 2lb

Once more the Canton rowers were easily victorious, and won as they pleased from the two local Clubs entered. They took the lead from the start, and continued in the van, passing the post about five lengths ahead of the Corinthians, who were second home with three lengths to spare. The excellent show put up by the Corinthians who are practically novices at the game, augurs well for the future success of their Club. The team which competed on Saturday, with more training, should give a good account of themselves in the near future. Their performance certainly showed that they possessed the strength and skill requisite for successful oarsmen.

MEN-OF-WAR CUTTERS.—Open to crews from Ships on the Station in Service cutters. Prizes \$40.00 & \$10.00. Distance: One mile.

H.M.S. Kent	1
H.M.S. Bedford	2
H.M.S. Monmouth	3

This event brought forth nine starters, and a very good race resulted. From start to finish it was keenly contested, and after an exciting race a crew from H.M.S. Kent won, the Bedford being a good second, and the Monmouth third.

JUNIOR PAIRS.—Open to all not competing in Open Pairs in Hongkong Challenge Cup.

Canton	1
Bow—E. Lund	10st 12lb
Str.—E. Danter	11st 2lb
Cox—E. Schroeter	10st 0lb
V.R.C. (Mr. Crawford's team)	2
Bow—R. L. Bridger	11st 6lb
Str.—F. A. Wackintosh	12st 12lb
Cox—F. M. Crawford	8st 13lb
V.R.C. (Mr. Carroll's team)	3
Bow—J. Cruickshank	10st 0lb
Str.—A. H. Carroll	10st 2lb
Cox.—W. J. Carroll	9st 4lb

Canton and two V.R.C. teams started in this event, the Yacht Club scratching. Another easy win fell to the Canton men, the visitors simply romping home. The V.R.C. team, coxswained by Crawford, took an easy second place, W. J. Carroll's team being entirely out of the race.

SCRATCH FOURS.—Open to members of R.H.K.Y.C., V.R.C. and C.Y.C., who are not competing in other races. Crews to be drawn the day before the Regatta:—

Bow—A. R. Ellis	1
2—R. A. Carvalho	
3—A. E. Carvalho	
Str.—C. Rodrigues	
Cox.—F. Lenfesty	

Of the three scratch teams entering for this event the winners were decidedly the best, although they nearly lost the race by laying on their oars too early in the proceedings. A pistol shot was fired in the vicinity of the Judges' quarters and the winners laid on their oars to cheer, and were just in time made to realise that they were not yet out of the wood.

THE BROWN CHALLENGE CUP.—This event was postponed for a fortnight.

YACHT RACES.—The course was both torpedo beacons (port) North Fairway Buoy (port), a distance of six miles.

The race of the Corinthian Yacht Club's one design was won by Messrs. Rodger and Witchell's *Asthore*.

Captain Walker's *Daphne* won in the one-design class of the Royal Hongkong Yacht Club.

The race in the Hayward Hay's one-design class was won by Messrs. Scriven and Hay's *Mariory*.

A second race for the handicap class was sailed over the same course. Mr. Tooker's *Vernon*, sailed by the owner, carried off the prize for the Royal Hongkong Yacht Club, while Mr. Mackay's *Corrinnee*, sailed by Mr. Coombs, was first home among the Corinthian boats.

MOTOR BOAT RACE.—The course for this was around Pinnacle Rock at the entrance to Chin Wan Pass (port), a distance of six and a quarter miles. All the boats entered sailed under the colours of the Corinthian Yacht Club. Mr. C. A. G. Roberts' *Veronica* was first home, but Dr. W. W. Pearse's *Jean* won the race on time allowance.

At the conclusion of the races Mr. HEDLEY G. WHITE, the Hon. Secretary, asked Mrs. Basil Taylor to present the prizes.

On completion of her task Mrs Taylor was presented with a handsome bouquet and three ringing cheers were given.

A GIGANTIC FRAUD.

CANADIAN CUSTOMS EVADED.

A very clever fraud has just come to light in Hongkong as the result of which a consignment of opium worth about \$10,000 has been replaced by a bogus material which is practically worthless. A few days when the steamer *Gymeric* had arrived here from Vancouver Mr. Hoggarth and a party of excise officers, accompanied by a police constable boarded the steamer and took possession of twelve cases, each case containing 105 boxes and each box five taels. The chief officer said he was glad to get rid of it as it was leaking.

It appears that the consignment which was marked "K.M.H. Macao," was sent from Hongkong to Vancouver some time ago, but it was refused admission into Canada and was stored in a bonded warehouse whence it was to be reshipped back to Hongkong. Prior to its reaching Hongkong it had been to Japanese ports and Manila. Naturally it was expected the royalty would have been paid on the consignment on returning here, but the Opium Farmer learned through an informer that the contents were merely a decoction of opium. Examination confirmed this, the alleged opium being nothing more than treacle and opium water. The genuine opium had apparently been taken out of the boxes and found its way into Canada and the concoction put in its place and sent back to Hongkong. Where and by whom the fraud was committed is not known, but whoever carried it out did so very cleverly. Now the steamboat agents are trying to find an owner for the consignment but nobody seems to care to claim it. The opium authorities will probably ask for its forfeiture and destruction.

PROBABLE REDUCTION OF CHINESE IN THE PHILIPPINES.

A decision of the Philippines Supreme Court making certain radical changes in the Chinese immigration laws now in force there, has just been made public by Acting Collector of Customs McCoy.

The decision in question lays down the rule that no Chinese is a merchant unless transacting business, buying and selling merchandise, in his own name and at a fixed place of business. The merchant's name must be incorporated in the firm name and appear on the license. The ruling will have a far-reaching effect in reducing the number of Chinese in the Islands. Formerly, each member of a firm consisting of say, 19 people, would have a right to admission of his, say, five children, reared in China, making a total of 95 husky boys to be employed in the business of their progenitors.

It was a smooth trick to defeat the immigration laws, the "partnership of 19" in many cases being formed for the sole purpose of gaining admission to a horde of "boys" who swelled the ranks of the coolies after arrival in the Philippines. Under the new rule only the heads of firms and bona fide members of the same will have the privilege of bringing over their minor offspring, partners whose names do not appear in the firm name not being recognized as merchants. Close scrutiny will be exercised by the authorities to determine the matter of bona fide partnership.

The Supreme Court, in its decision, also holds that manufacturers and restaurant keepers are not to be considered as merchants.

The case now decided by the high tribunal is that of Lim Co versus the Collector of Customs. Lim Co was arrested in Manila as an unregistered labourer and brought before the courts on deportation proceedings. He claimed to be a merchant, owning a panciteria and being interested in a vermicelli factory and Judge Crossfield held the man entitled to remain in the Philippines. Appeal from that decision was taken by the Collector of Customs to the Supreme Court, which reversing the court of first instance, ruled as stated above.—Manila *Obalencwa*.

CHINESE AND JAPANESE CHARACTERISTICS.

A correspondent of the *Japan Advertiser*, in the course of an article headed "Chinese Characteristics," says:—

The Chinese are very quick to learn and beat Japanese youths in more than one respect. Place them side by side with Japanese of the same age and the same class and hear what the teachers say. The Chinese have more mental capacity and are quicker in drawing conclusions. At present they are following the Japanese teachers with the docility of children, but this will soon be a thing of the past. They will assert themselves with irresistible force one of these days. The Japanese emerged gloriously from their period of tutelage and asserted themselves with confidence in their ultimate success, and they have a reverential memory for their teachers to this day. The Chinese are simply walking in the Japanese footprints, and they will some day turn their backs on their Japanese teachers, saying: "Thank you very much for the guidance which you have given us, but we can take care of ourselves now."

The *Japan Mail* commenting on this says:—We have heard the same thing said by other observers. Undoubtedly the Chinese student is very quick to learn. That fact was recognized fifty years ago in Hongkong. The Japanese also is very quick to learn. We have heard its said by a foreigner of long experience that an average class of Japanese lads is much apter in acquiring mathematical knowledge than a class of English lads. But while willing to do fullest justice to the excellent ability of the Chinese student, we are inclined to doubt whether he possesses another moral gift in the same degree as the Japanese—the gift of earnest determination. It was by observing how largely the Japanese student is dowered with this quality that we ourselves originally acquired a firm faith in his future. The sacrifices he will make in the cause of acquiring knowledge indicate a character of quite exceptional force. There are at this moment youths hawking newspapers in Tokyo in order to obtain means for defraying their school fees, and there are Japanese youths serving as domestic servants in foreigners' houses for the sake of obtaining knowledge of a foreign language. Nothing to deter the Japanese youth in his pursuit of instruction. Has the Chinese student a similar fund of grim determination? He may have. We have not had sufficient opportunities for judging to be qualified to say "yes" or "no." But we have never seen the Japanese youth's peer in this respect. Such a setting of the teeth in pursuit of learning prepares us to find it accompanied by a spirit of enterprise. And it is so accompanied. There are at this moment Japanese braving all kinds of hardships to develop some special faculty or obtain some special information which shall serve as a stepping stone to preferment. The great majority of them never emerge into public observation, but when the rare opportunity comes, they are ready to seize it. There is a great deal to be taken into consideration before all the materials for comparison are marshalled.

THE DEATH OF THEODORE SPEIDEL.

We briefly announced a few days ago that telegraphic news had reached the East of the death at Home of Mr. Theodore Speidel, senior partner in the well-known firm of Messrs. Speidel & Co., of Hanoi, Haiphong, Pnompenh and Saigon. Mr. Speidel was well known in China and the news of his death will be received by all who knew him with very great regret.

Mr. Speidel started in business at Saigon in 1868, as a general merchant and in course of time established branches of the firm at Pnompenh, Haiphong and Hanoi. He also founded the Orient and the Union rice mills at Cholon, near Saigon, and for many years acted as Consul for Germany in Szechin-China. Mr. Speidel died in Paris on the 7th inst. in the sixty-eighth year of his age.

COMPANY REPORTS.

THE YOKOHAMA SPECIE BANK, LIMITED.

The Directors' report to the shareholders states:—

GENTLEMEN:—The Directors submit to you the annexed statement of the liabilities and assets of the Bank, and of the profit and loss account for the half-year ended 31st December, 1908.

The gross profits of the Bank for the past half-year, including yen 1,113,505.35 brought forward from last account, amount to yen 10,798,765.62, of which yen 7,817,088.72 have been deducted for interest, taxes, current expenses, rebate on bills current, bad and doubtful debts, bonus for officers and clerks, &c., leaving a balance of yen 2,291,676.90 for appropriation.

Owing to the continued depreciation in the price of silver towards the end of the last half-year, the Directors have decided to adjust the rate of the silver fund held in China by writing off the balance of the silver depreciation fund.

The Directors now propose that yen 400,000 be added to the Reserve fund, and recommend a dividend at the rate of twelve per cent., per annum, which will absorb yen 1,440,000.

The balance, yen 1,141,676.90, will be carried forward to the credit of next account.

BARON KOREKIYO TAKAHASHI,
Chairman.

Head Office, Yokohama, 10th March, 1909.

BALANCE SHEET, 31st December, 1908.

LIABILITIES.		Yen
Capital (paid up)	24,000,000.00	
Reserve funds	15,100,000.00	
Reserve for doubtful debts ...	390,928.38	
Notes in circulation	4,930,555.73	
Deposits (current, fixed, &c.) ...	119,174,131.03	
Bills payable, bills re-discounted acceptances, and other sums due by the bank	77,915,485.96	
Dividends unclaimed	5,430.02	
Amount brought forward from last account	1,113,505.35	
Net profit for the past half-year	1,868,171.55	
	Yen 244,498,208.02	

ASSETS.		Yen
Cash Account:—	Yen	Yen
In hand	12,582,865.22	
At bankers	14,864,959.94	
	27,447,825.16	
Investments in Public securities	16,881,383.69	
Bills discounted, loans, advances, &c.	67,498,190.50	
Bills receivable and other sums due to the Bank	128,339,932.38	
Bullion and foreign money ...	2,123,667.18	
Bank's premises, properties, Furniture, &c.	2,207,209.11	
	Yen 244,498,208.02	

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

To interest, taxes, current expenses, rebate on bills current, bad and doubtful debts, bonus for officers and clerks, &c.	7,817,088.72
To reserve fund	400,000.00
To Dividend:—(yen 6 per share for 240,000 shares)	1,400,000.00
To balance carried forward to next account	1,141,676.90

Yen 10,798,765.62

By balance brought forward 30th June, 1908	1,113,505.35
By amount of gross profits for the half-year ending 31st December, 1908	9,685,260.27

Yen 10,798,765.62

Among the passengers to arrive at Hankow by train from Peking ten days ago was the Rev. Lord William Gascoigne Cecil, who is at present taking a very keen interest in Chinese affairs. He was to have preached in St. John's Church, Hankow, on Sunday.

GREEN ISLAND CEMENT COMPANY, LIMITED.

The report for presentation to the shareholders at the twentieth ordinary general meeting is as follows:—

Annexed we have the pleasure to lay before shareholders a statement of accounts for the year ending 31st December 1908.

The net profit, after providing for depreciation on Buildings and Machinery, Launches, Lighters &c. and including the amount brought forward from the previous year, amounts to \$364,756.74 which it is proposed to deal with follows, viz:—

To place to reserve fund ... \$1,000.00
To pay a final dividend of 50 cents per share \$200,000.00
Add interim dividend of 40 cents per share ... 160,000.00
360,100.00

To carry forward to the credit of next year's account ... 3,756.74

Consulting Committee—In accordance with articles of Association, Sir Paul Chater, C.M.G., the Hon. W. J. Gresson and J. W. Noble retire, but being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

Auditor—The accounts have been audited by Messrs. W. H. Potts and A. O'D. Gourdin, who are recommended for re-election.

SHEWAN, TOMES & Co.
General Managers.

Hongkong, 20th March, 1909.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR 1908.
PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Interest	\$31,116.04
Auditors' fees	600.00
Consulting committee's fees	4,000.00
Amounts written off as bad debts	10,618.49
Amount written off as depreciation for 1908	106,428.21
Interim dividend	\$160,000.00
Balance	204,756.74
	364,756.74
	\$ 517,519.48

Balance brought forward from 1907	\$5,078.16
Transfer fees	5.00
Exchange	297.77
Unclaimed dividends 1899 to 1906	12,831.10
Balance from working account:—	
Sales of cement	\$501,982.99
Less Loss on sales of bricks, pipes, &c.	2,675.54
	499,307.45
	\$ 515,516.48

BALANCE SHEET.

Capital:—400,000 shares at \$10 each fully paid up	\$4,000,000.00
Reserve fund	12,000.00
Sundry creditors	81,350.79
Company's bankers	640,065.32
Balance of profit and loss account	\$364,756.74
Loss interim dividend	160,000.00
	204,756.74
	\$4,938,172.85

Green Island, Macao:—	
Building and machinery as per last statement	\$457,130.98
Less depreciation	27,427.86
	\$429,703.12
Since expended	32,607.90
	\$462,311.02

Cement and raw material in stock valued at	232,784.02
Coal in stock valued at	\$3,126.02
Stores in stock valued at	29,331.30
	32,457.32

Hok Un, Hongkong:—	
Land as per last statement 1,091,394 square feet valued at	1,231,968.88
Buildings and machinery as per last statement	\$928,826.28
Less depreciation	55,955.84
	\$872,870.44

THE CHINA-BORNEO CO., LIMITED.

Since expended ... 163,470.65
1,004,341.09

Cement & raw material in stock valued at	759,697.81
Coal, casks, and gunnies in stock valued at	\$ 58,760.92
Stores in stock valued at	165,200.16
	221,961.08

Cement on consignment valued at	83,029.00
Deep Water Bay Works:—	
Land as per last statement	3,500.00

Building and machinery as per last statement	\$191,825.96
Less depreciation	11,509.56
	\$180,316.40
Since expended	38,004.86
	218,321.26

Bricks pipes, and tiles in stock valued at	57,785.79
On consignment valued at	4,818.25
Coal in stock valued at	\$ 2,418.10
Stores in stock valued at	2,455.90
	4,874.000

Steam lighter, steamer launches, lighters, junks, &c., as per last statement	\$182,352.02
Less depreciation	10,714.86
	\$171,637.16
Since expended	59,368.49
	231,005.65

Property at Canfon as per last statement	42,500.00
Value of premia on unexpired policies	3,371.23
Sundry debtors	331,564.66
Cash on hand	11,881.79
	\$4,938,172.85

THE CHINA-BORNEO CO., LIMITED.

The report of this Company is as follows:—
Gentlemen,—The General Manager and Consulting Committee beg to present to the shareholders the sixth ordinary yearly report of the Company.

The accounts show a profit of ... \$104,695.09

From this has to be deducted:—

Fees to consulting committee	\$4,000.00
Bonus to European staff for 1907	2,850.00
	6,850.00
Leaving available for appropriation	\$ 97,845.09

The consulting committee recommend that a dividend of 10% on the subscribed capital be paid to shareholders ... \$ 55,200.00

Write off Hongkong saw-mills	10,000.00
" " engineering works	5,000.00
" " launches and lighters	5,000.00
" " plant	2,500.00
" " timber concessions	1,145.09
" " Kudat pier and house property	1,000.00
To carry to reserve	15,000.00
Provision for bonus to staff for 1908	3,000.00
	\$ 97,845.09

Consulting Committee:—Mr. A. G. Wood retired on leaving the Colony and Mr. J. W. C. Bonnar was invited to join the committee, his appointment requires confirmation. In accordance with the Articles of Association the Hon. Sir Paul Chater, C.M.G., retires, but offers himself for re-election.

Auditor:—The accounts under review have been audited by Mr. W. H. Potts who offers himself for re-election.

J. WHEELEY,
General Manager.

Hongkong, March 15th, 1909.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS TO DECEMBER 31st, 1908.

LIABILITIES.	
Capital:—60,000 shares each \$12=	\$720,000.00
Less 14,000 shares unissued each \$12=	168,000.00
	\$552,000.00
Sundry creditors	11,832.78
Reserve account	25,000.00
Balance of working account	104,695.09
	\$693,527.87

ASSETS.	
Hongkong saw-mills	
Value as per last statement	\$151,505.84
Less amount provided for depreciation	5,000.00
	\$146,505.84
since added	5,924.10
	152,429.94

Sandakan saw-mills	
Value as per last statement	\$89,068.57
since added	21,262.93
	110,331.50

Steam launches and lighters:—	
Value as per last statement	\$105,223.21
Less amount provided for depreciation	5,000.00
	\$100,223.21
since added	20,601.59
	120,824.80

Sandakan engine works and slipway:—	
Value as per last statement	\$91,131.29
Less amount provided for depreciation	5,000.00
	86,131.29

Plant:—	
Value as per last statement	\$21,569.06
Less amount provided for depreciation	5,000.00
	\$16,569.06
since added	1,292.13
	17,862.19

Land and house property:—	
Value as per last statement	\$ 5,269.53
Less value of property sold	1,460.00
	3,809.53

Kudat pier:—	
Value as per last statement	\$ 2,000.00
Less amount provided for depreciation	1,500.00
	500.00
House and office furniture	2,377.03
Timber concession:—	
Value as per last statement	\$ 18,848.77
Less amount provided for depreciation	2,568.74
	16,280.03

Stock of rough and sawn timber, stores material &c.	124,302.42
Suspense account	2,850.00
Sundry debtors	6,824.10
Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, cash with	34,427.37
Cash in hand	14,577.67
	\$693,527.87

WORKING ACCOUNT.	
Dr.	
To management and office expenses and general charges at Hongkong and in Borneo	\$ 42,415.64
To exchange	42,902.39
To balance	104,695.09
	\$190,013.12

Cr.	
By profit on sales of rough and sawn timber &c.	189,625.21
By interest	316.9
By scrip fees	71.00
	\$190,013.12

UNION INSURANCE SOCIETY OF
CANTON, LIMITED.

The Report for presentation to the shareholders at the thirty-sixth ordinary meeting is as follows:—

The Board has now to lay before the shareholders a balance sheet containing a summary of the property and liabilities of the Society on the 31st December 1908 and a statement of accounts to the same date.

1907 Account.—After payment of the interim dividend of \$30 per share and the bonus of 20 per cent. to contributors passed at the last annual meeting there remains a balance of \$680,126.17 as per annexed statement.

The Board recommends that this sum be appropriated as follows:—

A final dividend to shareholders of \$17 per share on 11,400 shares \$210,800.00
To be carried forward to underwriting suspense account to close the account for the year 1907 469,326.17

\$680,126.17

1908 Account.—The balance of Working account on the 31st December 1908 was \$2,464,901.61 as per annexed statement.

The Board recommends that an interim dividend of \$30 per share be paid to shareholders, absorbing \$372,000, and that a bonus of 20 per cent. be paid to contributors, absorbing about \$250,000, and that the remainder be carried forward.

DIRECTORS.

Since the last general meeting Mr. J. A. Plummer has resigned his seat and Mr. A. Forbes of Messrs. Bradley & Co. has joined the Board.

In accordance with clause 86 of the Articles of Association Mr. C. R. Lenzmann and Mr. W. Helms retire, but offer themselves for re-election.

AUDITORS.

Messrs. W. Hutton Potts and A. R. Lowe retire, but offer themselves for re-election.

E. ORMISTON,
Chairman.

Hongkong, 24th March, 1909.

BALANCE SHEET.

On the 31st December, 1908.

Dr.

To capital 12,400 shares of \$250 each=\$3,100,000 upon which \$100 per share called and paid up \$1,240,000.00
To reserve fund:—
Silver \$3,000,000.00
Sterling £90,000=1,037,837.84

4,037,837.84
To unclaimed bonus and dividend 12,766.78
To exchange fluctuation account 192,248.98
To investment fluctuation account 103,156.47
To working account 1907 balance 680,126.17
To working account 1908 balance 2,464,901.61
To reinsurance fund... £105,249. 14.7= 1,213,690.58
To underwriting suspense account £18,495. 13. 8= 213,283.55
To sundry creditors 549,546.73
To bills payable 230,630.63
To liability under cash certificates issued in part payment for China Traders' shares 150,452.73
\$11,088,649.07

Cr.

By cash on current account at Hongkong \$53,764.43
By cash on deposit with banks in Hongkong, Shanghai, Yokohama, Kobe and Singapore 827,677.15
By amount invested in mortgages, debentures and other securities in Hongkong, Shanghai Yokohama and Singapore 2,783,172.15
By amount invested in London, viz:—
By deposited in banks... £72,000. 0. 0
By investments ... 272,031. 7. 0
£344,031. 7. 0= 3,967,208.39

By amount invested in Austria ... £1,250. 0. 0= 14,414.43

By amount at debit of branches and agencies 1,097,725.13
By sundry debtors 204,330.11
By office leases 50,503.17
By bills receivable 18,217.11
By 23,018 shares in the China Traders' Insurance Company Limited, at \$90 per share 2,071,620.00
\$11,088,642.07

WORKING ACCOUNT, 1907.

On 31st December, 1908.

To nett premium \$4,319,037.03
To interest 468,759.62
\$4,787,796.65
By agency commissions \$ 132,779.11
By head office, branches and agency charges 508,864.25
By remuneration to Directors, Committees and Auditors 33,825.31
By losses and claims paid 2,750,666.10
By retiring allowances in Australia 54,390.39
\$3,480,525.16

By bonus of 20 per cent paid to contributors 255,153.32
By interim dividend of \$30 per share 372,000.00
By balance 680,126.17
\$4,787,796.65

WORKING ACCOUNT, 1908.

On 31st December, 1908.

To nett premium \$4,108,171.82
To interest 466,514.04
\$4,574,685.86
By agency commissions \$ 101,372.40
By head office, branches and agency charges 462,251.27
By remuneration to Directors, Committees and Auditors 23,339.23
By losses and claims paid 1,521,821.35
By balance 2,464,901.61
\$4,574,685.86

CHINA TRADERS' INSURANCE
COMPANY, LIMITED.

The report for presentation to the shareholders at the forty-third ordinary meeting:—

The Board has now to lay before the shareholders a balance sheet containing a summary of the property and liabilities of the Company on the 31st December 1908 and a statement of accounts to the same date.

1907 Account.—After payment of the interim dividend of \$3 per share and the bonus of 20 per cent. to contributors passed at the last annual meeting there remains a balance of \$359,911.42 as per annexed statement.

The Board recommends that this sum be appropriated as follows:—

A final dividend to shareholders of \$1.50 per share on 24,000 shares \$36,000.00
An addition to the reinsurance fund of £8,000 @ exchange 1/8 1/2 92,252.25
To be carried forward to underwriting suspense account to close the account for the year 1907 231,659.17
\$359,911.42

1908 Account.—The balance of Working account on the 31st December 1908 was \$1,149,360.76 as per annexed statement. The Board recommends that an interim dividend of \$3 per share be paid to shareholders, absorbing \$72,000; and that a bonus of 20 per cent. be paid to contributors, absorbing about \$125,000; and that the remainder be carried forward.

DIRECTORS.

Since the last general meeting the Directors have had to deplore the death on the 2nd October last of Mr. C. Brodersen. Mr. J. A. Plummer has resigned his seat and Mr. G. Friesland of Messrs. Melchers & Co., Mr. C. S. Gubbay of Messrs. E. D. Sassoon & Co., Mr. A. Forbes of Messrs. Bradley & Co., and Mr. H. A. Siebs of Messrs. Siemssen & Co. have joined the Board. Their appointments will be submitted

for the confirmation of shareholders. Messrs. C. R. Lenzmann and W. Helms retire by rotation and offer themselves for re-election.

AUDITORS.

The annexed accounts have been audited by Messrs. H. U. Jeffries and A. R. Lowe who offer themselves for re-election.

E. ORMISTON,
Chairman.

Hongkong, 26th March, 1909.

BALANCE SHEET.

On the 31st December, 1908.

Dr.

To capital 24,000 shares of \$33.33 each = \$2,000,000 upon which \$25 per share called and paid up \$ 600,000.00
To reserve fund:—
Silver \$800,000.00
Sterling £5,000= 57,657.66
857,657.66
To unclaimed bonus and dividend 8,062.60
To exchange fluctuation account 68,691.35
To investment fluctuation account 63,541.49
To working account 1907, balance 359,911.42
To working account 1908, balance 1,149,360.76
To reinsurance fund £17,380.14.1= 200,426.14
To underwriting suspense account £ 5,907. 5.2= 68,119.73
To sundry creditors 833.87
\$3,376,605.02

Cr.

By cash on current account at Hongkong \$10,892.57
By cash on deposit with Bank in Hongkong and Shanghai... 556,490.07
By amount invested mortgages, debentures and other securities in Hongkong, Shanghai and Yokohama 1,273,199.80
By amount invested in London, viz:—
Deposited in banks £74,000. 0. 0
Leasehold property 21,767.10. 0
Travancore Tea Estate Co. 1,000. 0. 0
£96,767.10. 0=1,115,877.49
By amount invested in Australia viz:—
Deposited in banks £ 4,000. 0. 0
Other investments 3,190. 0. 0
£ 7,190. 0. 0= 82,911.71

By amount at debit of branches and agencies 238,746.16
By sundry debtors 86,971.89
By bills receivable 11,515.33
\$3,376,605.02

WORKING ACCOUNT, 1907.

On 31st December, 1908.

To nett premium \$2,159,517.75
To interest 139,486.00
To transfer fees 742.80
\$ 2,299,746.55

By agency commissions \$66,389.69
By head office, branches and agency charges 254,432.23
By remuneration to directors, committees and auditors 16,912.67
By losses and claims paid 1,375,332.81
By retiring allowance in Australia 27,195.19
\$1,740,262.59

By bonus of 20 per cent. paid to contributors 127,572.54
By interim dividend of \$3 per share 72,000.00
By balance 359,911.42
\$2,299,746.55

WORKING ACCOUNT, 1908.

On 31st December, 1908.

To nett premium \$2,054,085.82
To interest 150,167.10
\$2,204,252.92

By agency commissions \$51,187.48

By head office, branches and agency charges	231,125.79
By remuneration to directors, committees and auditors	11,669.61
By losses and claims paid	760,910.58
By balance	1,149,360.76
	\$ 2,204,252.92

COMPANY MEETINGS.

CHINA SUGAR REFINING COMPANY.

The thirty-first annual general meeting of the shareholders in the above Company was held on the 19th inst. at the offices of Messrs. Jardine Matheson & Co. Hon. Mr. Gresson presided and there were also present Sir Paul Chater, Messrs. H. P. White, F. Maitland, J. W. C. Bonnar, E. Shellim (members of consulting committee) P. M. Hodgson, A. Denison, F. Ellis, P. C. Potts, E. A. Ram, E. D. Haskell, Choa Leep Chee, A. Turner, W. H. Potts, E. Owen, J. Y. V. Vernon, E. H. Hinds, C. More, Ho Fook, J. F. Wright, Wong Leung Lin, Lo Cheung Shui, H. N. M. Nemazee, and J. Barton (Secretary.)

The SECRETARY having read the notice convening the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN said: - Gentlemen—I propose to take the report and statement of accounts as read. As you are aware we commenced the year with a sum of \$279,371.34 at debit of profit and loss account and this has now been reduced to \$5,858.24. Our gain on working during the period was \$335,516.67 which is, I consider, sufficient to prove that it is still possible for the Hongkong Refineries to conduct their business at a profit. I must remind you however that such profits are to a large extent dependent on the cost of supplies of raw sugar, and as in order to obtain these supplies it is necessary to operate on the Java market months in advance, you will readily recognise that it is not always possible to correctly gauge the future of that market; and that such purchases must necessarily be speculative. During the period under notice the consumption of sugar in the China markets was satisfactory, but from the more distant outlets, on which we to a large extent depend for the marketing of our higher grades, we have found enquiries and prices disappointing. Sugar refining in Japan is somewhat under a cloud, and I am unable to state what will be the ultimate result of the present, difficulty but it is reasonable to assume that for a time at all events we have little to fear from this competition in the China markets. There are now a number of mills or refineries in Formosa, which appear to have the sympathy and support of Japanese Government, and as it is reported that this support is detrimental to the interests of the Japan refineries, it will be interesting to watch the future action of the Government. So far the product of the Formosan Mills has not competed with our sugars in China. Prospects for the immediate future are bright; we have secured a proportion of our future requirements of raw sugar, at what to-day appear safe prices, and under the circumstances your general agents and consulting committee recommend with your approval, the payment of a dividend of \$5 per share out of the equalization of dividend fund. The accounts I think call for no comment, but before proposing their adoption, I shall be pleased to answer any question regarding them that you may desire to ask.

There being no questions, the report was adopted on the motion of the CHAIRMAN, seconded by Mr. TURNER.

Mr. DENISON proposed the reappointment of Sir Paul Chater, Messrs. E. Shellim, F. Maitland, H. P. White and J. W. C. Bonnar to the consulting committee.

Mr. HODGSON seconded, and the motion was carried.

Mr. OWEN proposed, and Mr. WRIGHT seconded, the re-election of Messrs. W. H. Potts and H. Percy Smith as auditors. Carried.

The CHAIRMAN—That is all the business, gentlemen. Thank you for your attendance. Dividend warrants will be ready to-morrow.

LUZON SUGAR REFINING COMPANY.

The annual meeting of the shareholders in the above company was held on Mar. 19 at the offices of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., general managers. The Hon. Mr. Gresson presided and there were present Messrs. H. P. White, J. W. C. Bonnar (members of the consulting committee), C. H. Ross, Choa-Leep Chee, Wong Leung Lin, H. N. Mody, P. Tester, E. Ormiston, S. C. A. Newall, and Mr. J. Barton (secretary).

The notice convening the meeting having been read.

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, the report and accounts having been in your hands for some days, you will doubtless consent to take them as read. I regret that the report is not more encouraging, but, as was the case during the two previous years, the demand for the Refinery's sugars during 1908 was insufficient to keep the works going except upon a reduced melt and with frequent stoppages, while, owing to the competition of other sugars, the prices obtained were too low to allow of a satisfactory margin of profit being made. Although the sum at debit has been slightly increased, I may remind you, as I did on a previous occasion, that this increase would have been greater if the works had remained silent, the cost of upkeep being between \$8,000 and \$9,000 per annum while the Refinery is closed. As mentioned in the report our assets in the Philippines have been taken over at par, and it seems desirable that this rate should be a permanent one, for although on this occasion, the current exchange would have enabled us to make a book profit of about 10 per cent, it is quite possible that in future years it would have to be written back. I cannot at the moment hold out much hope of improvement in the situation in the immediate future, but as you are aware Tariff revision as between the Philippines and the United States is much in the air, and if the question is taken in hand by the United States Government it is possible that the value of our property may be enhanced. Before moving the adoption of the report and accounts I shall be glad to answer any questions which shareholders may wish to put regarding them.

No questions were asked and the report was adopted on the motion of the CHAIRMAN, seconded by Mr. ORMISTON.

On the proposition of Mr. NEWALL, seconded by Mr. TESTER, Messrs White and Bonnar were re-elected to the consulting committee.

Mr. NEWALL proposed, and Mr. ROSS seconded, the re-election of Mr. Lowe as auditor. Carried.

The CHAIRMAN—That is all the business, gentlemen. I am much obliged for your attendance.

THE MERCANTILE BANK OF INDIA, LIMITED.

Mr. E. Ormiston, Manager of the Hongkong Branch of the Mercantile Bank of India, informs us of the receipt of a telegram from the Head Office stating that at the forthcoming general meeting of shareholders of the Bank the Directors will recommend a dividend of 6 per cent. per annum on "A" and "B" shares free of income tax: that £40,000 has been added to the Reserve Fund (raising it to £250,000) £2,000 added to the Officers' Pension Fund, and £25,300 will be carried forward.

SERIOUS CHARGE AGAINST A POSTAL EMPLOYEE.

At the Magistracy on Mar. 25 William Nuttall, a clerk in the registration department of the General Post Office, was charged with having fraudulently removed postage stamps from nine parcels in the Hongkong Post Office on the 19th inst. Mr. Bowley prosecuted and Mr. Goldring appeared for the defence.

Mr. Bowley outlined the case for the prosecution. He stated that defendant was a clerk in the registration branch of the General Post Office where he had been for two or three years. It was his duty to receive parcels handed in by the public after they have been stamped. He had nothing to do with the sale of stamps, which are sold by a Chinese shroff who weighs the parcels and tells the persons posting them what they have to pay. After the stamps are

affixed the parcel is handed to the counter clerk, who writes out the receipt handed to the person posting the parcel and also writes the counterfoil. He also puts the Post Office chop on the receipt. Another clerk enters in a journal—a separate journal being kept for each country—particulars of the parcel posted so that a check is kept on every parcel. If the mail is being closed at once the parcels are packed in a box and despatched after having been checked. A copy of the journal is kept in the office and the other copies are forwarded to the places of destination. If the mail is not to be closed at once the parcels are kept in safes, a separate one for each country. On Friday last a number of mails, including the English mail which carries the majority of parcels, and the Calcutta mail were being closed, while parcels were also being received for the Australian mail which did not close until Saturday the 27th inst. Defendant was on duty on that day from 9 a.m. until he was suspended in the afternoon and during that time he was engaged in giving receipts for parcels and in entering parcels in proper journals. Defendant was in charge of the London insured parcels. Mr. Martin was the superintendent of the registration department and the staff under him in charge of the parcels consisted of the defendant and three other clerks. On that day Mr. Martin noticed that the London insured box was not properly fastened and he had it re-opened and repacked, during which it was found that a number of parcels were deficient in postage. His Worship would understand from the system adopted that no receipts could be given for parcels unless they were sufficiently stamped, and he believed it was a rule that if stamps were found to be deficient the counter clerk had to make up the deficiency. In that London insured mail box there were three parcels deficient in postage to the extent of \$4—two \$1.50 each and one \$1. It was also discovered that another insured parcel had a clean dollar stamp which from its appearance had evidently been put on after the parcel had been post marked. The counter foils of the receipts for these four parcels were all in defendant's handwriting and the entries in the journal were in his writing, so that he alone had handled the parcels. The matter was reported to the Postmaster-General who called upon the defendant to explain the deficiency, but being dissatisfied with his replies suspended the defendant. All the parcels in the office were checked afterwards, and it was found that six parcels in the safe for the Australian mail which had been received by the defendant were deficient in postage. On the first parcel there was no postmark and no stamp. The postage ought to have been \$1. On the second parcel there was a 20 cents stamp instead of 50 cents, on the third there were no stamps at all, the postage being \$2, on the fourth parcel, the postage of which was \$1, there was no stamp, on the fifth, the postage of which was \$1.50, there was no stamp; and on the sixth parcel, the postage on which was \$2 there was no stamp. The matter was reported to the police with the result that P. S. Watt called at defendant's house and after charging him with the offence stated asked him if he would consent to be searched. Defendant turned out his pockets and produced a number of stamps some of which were clean and some defaced. Clean stamps could always fetch their face value and defaced stamps had a value for collectors. Several of the stamps found in the defendant's pockets were the appropriate stamps for the parcels from which the stamps were missing although they did not account for all the deficient postage. Defendant was arrested and the following day he made a statement in which he said that he had picked up the stamps on the floor of the Post Office.

Mr. Martin then gave evidence in support of the opening statement.

After other evidence was heard, the case was adjourned.

The hearing of the charge against William Nuttall, a Post Office employee, for fraudulently removing postage stamps from parcels in the Hongkong General Post Office on the 19th inst., was resumed at the Magistracy on Friday before Mr. Kemp. Mr. Bowley, Crown Solicitor, prosecuted and Mr. P. Goldring defended.

Mr. Martin, superintendent of the registration department, was recalled. He stated in reply to questions by Mr. Goldring that on a day like that on which the offence was alleged to have been committed the Post Office staff was extremely busy. They had as much as they could do to get the work done in time. On the day the safe was discovered opened, there was a full staff working in the department and all would have access to the room in which the safe for the Australian mail was kept. There were more than six insufficiently stamped parcels in the safe.

Other evidence was called, and the case adjourned.

THE AMERICAN SQUADRON.

THE ENTERTAINMENTS AT HAPPY VALLEY.

March 25th.

There was no end of sport and pleasure at Happy Valley yesterday in connection with the welcome to the American Squadron. The first item on the programme of the local Entertainment Committee for the day was tiffin; after which followed a well-arranged programme of sport. The rejoicings of the hour were not only shared by British and Americans, for French and Portuguese sailors in port were also invited to the celebrations.

Arrangements were in the hands of a capable and energetic Entertainment Committee of which Mr. T. F. Hough was the hon. secretary, and they certainly carried out their task remarkably well. They had arranged to provide tiffin for 1,060 sailors and soldiers of different nationalities, who were conveyed to the Happy Valley, free of cost, by the Electric Tramway Co. The men invited were 650 American sailors; 150 British bluejackets; 200 soldiers of the garrison; 20 French sailors and 40 Portuguese sailors.

THE TIFFIN.

The basement of the Jockey Club stand, the weighing-in room, and the basement of the members' stand were utilised for the tiffin. There was no rush or confusion in the seating of the guests or the serving of the tiffin. All was done with the precision of a regiment on parade. The Buffs Band, who provided music during the afternoon, were in readiness before the tiffin hour. A minute before the time arranged for the meal they struck up "The Roast Beef of Old England." This was followed by a March, and the guests marched to the different tables and took their seats. Stragglers there were, who were delayed by duty or otherwise, but Mr. T. F. Hough was waiting to see that they were not left to the remnants. With cheery words and an engaging smile he found seats for them, and had "boys" at their elbows to attend their wants. Other members of the committee were also assiduous in their attention to the guests, and none went hungry. In short, better arrangements for a large spread were never made in Hongkong, and all retired from the banquetting halls with an air of satisfaction.

There was a short spell before the Sports programme was proceeded with, and in this interval the American tars appeared to find great amusement in engaging in a tug-of-war with a number of Chinese coolies. Some ten sailors would make fast to one end of the rope and beckon the Chinese to take the other. The coolies needed little persuasion, and as many as could be accommodated would take charge of the other end. Then the pull would begin. It was not the coolies' aim, however, to pull the Americans over the line. Their enjoyment was when the visitors got "down to it" to let go the rope and see them measure their length on the ground. An onlooker said something about the American-Chinese Alliance while this sport was proceeding, but the Chinese will have to be more considerate with Uncle Sam than they were yesterday before such a thing can come to pass.

THE SPORTS.

Following tiffin came the sports, which produced some very good events, most exciting of all being the tug-of-war competition. The American sailors are long and strong pullers, but they must have been considerably perplexed as to the man from whom they were to take

instructions, there being so many telling each team to "heave" and "dig their heels into the ground." Much amusement was afforded by the Obstacle, Three-legged and Ricscha races, while the sprinter had many opportunities of showing his quality. Needless to say, Corporal Andrews of the Buffs was to the fore, winning most of the events he entered with comparative ease.

March 26th.

The celebrations in honour of the visit of the American Squadron were continued yesterday in glorious weather, the scene of attraction being Happy Valley, whither during the morning sailors and soldiers proceeded on foot, or took advantage of the free conveyance provided by the Electric Tramway Co.

The Band of the Rajputs was in attendance, and started the programme as soon as the men began to arrive. A tap on the music stand, and Mr. Coke, the Bandmaster, played the old familiar "Murikan March," arranged by him for the Manila Carnival, "Marching thro' Georgia" which was loudly cheered and encored. Then followed a crisp two step, re-demanded, and next, "Mumblin' Moss," the cake walk which has been so greatly popularised by this band. Another tune was asked for, after which the bell for dinner sounded, and amidst the applause of quite 1,000 men, the band played yet another American march, and the inner man was then seen to by Mr. Hough and his staff.

As on the previous day, one thousand odd men sat down to tiffin beneath the Jockey Club stands, and were as well cared for as before. Arrangements were perfect, and the catering of Ying Kee was excellent. The committee saw every want supplied and the same good fellowship prevailed.

The afternoon was devoted to sport, and the lengthy programme was capably carried through by the combined committee of British and American officers. They had their work cut out, however, for in many of the events the entries were so numerous that the races had to be run off in heats. Nevertheless, they were carried through with surprising celerity, and to the satisfaction of both committee and entrants. Those who won races on the previous day were debarred from entering a similar race yesterday; thus every man got a fair chance. The sprinting events proved interesting, and Lance-Corporal Andrews maintained his title as a runner second to none in the Colony. Another event which attracted much attention was Putting the Shot. There were numerous entrants for honours in this, but none could approach the brawny Sergeant Gerrard of the Hongkong Police who was deservedly applauded for his lengthy "puts." His distance was 37 feet 3 inches, two feet beyond that of the second man, Lance-Corporal Browning of the Buffs, who covered the good distance of 35 feet 3 inches. There was much cheering and laughter over the three-legged race, the pairs going down like ninepins as they missed their stride, while further amusement was afforded by the Obstacle, Sack and Ricscha races. The event, however, which aroused most enthusiasm was the tug-of-war. There was the same wild excitement over this as on the previous day, the final pull between the *Cleveland* and the Royal Artillery being an exceptionally good one, and ending in a victory for the Gunners. In the semi-final the *Cleveland* beat the *Chattanooga* after a pull of 2 minutes and 19 seconds, while the R.G.A. had a strenuous fight to get the Buffs over the line.

March 27th.

To-day the Third Pacific Squadron of the American Fleet bring their visit to a close, yesterday good byes were said and this morning the cruisers will take their departure from our harbour.

Yesterday morning the baseball tournament was concluded with the final struggle between the teams from the *Charleston* and the *Cleveland*. Both teams had a win to their credit, but the *Charleston* won rather easily by seven runs to none, their pitcher giving the *Cleveland* men no scope at all. The cup was presented to the winning team in the course of the afternoon.

In the afternoon Rear-Admiral Harber and his officers held a reception on the flagship *Charleston*. There was a large number of

visitors, and they found the Admiral and his officers agreeable hosts. The Admiral's Filipino Band discoursed pleasing selections, and opportunities for dancing on the main deck were embraced by not a few, while others found a tour of the cruiser extremely interesting. Refreshments were served, and a delightful afternoon was spent on board.

LETTERS OF THANKS.

At ten o'clock on Saturday morning the American Squadron departed from Hongkong on their way to Swatow, the flagship *Charleston* leading the way out of port. Prior to their departure Sir Paul Chater, chairman of the Entertainment Committee received a letter of thanks from Admiral Harber, also from Rear-Admiral Perrin of the French cruiser. The letters were as follows:—

ADMIRAL HARBER'S LETTER.

Office of Third Squadron Commander,
United States Pacific Fleet,
U.S.S. *Charleston*, Flagship,
Hongkong, China,

March 26, 1909.

MY DEAR SIR,—On the eve of sailing, and bidding farewell to Hongkong and its hospitable people, I feel that I must say a word to those who have extended to us such a courteous and heartfelt welcome, and who, not content with that, have made special efforts to make us enjoy every hour of our stay, whether afloat or ashore.

We all feel most deeply grateful, for every word and deed has borne the stamp of what can best be termed as "Brotherly Love." In particular do we feel grateful for the splendid manner in which the enlisted force has been taken into your hearts and minds. The hospitality extended to them, the courtesy shown to them throughout, the friendly competition in sports, the special care paid to the inner man, as well as the outer, have cemented friendships which, I think, will live for ever, and, like a good tree, will bring forth the good fruit for all time.

I beg to thank you and your co-workers who have achieved such a splendid success. We thank also all the people of Hongkong, Army, Naval and Civil, who have made our visit so delightful and made us feel really sad in parting. Please convey, in such manner as you may deem best, the sincere thanks of the officers and men of our little Squadron to those who have given so many bright pages in our book of life.

With the sincere hope that the friendships made may be renewed many and many times in the future, I remain,

Sincerely and gratefully yours,

GILES B. HARBER,
Rear-Admiral, U. S. Navy,
Commander of Third Squadron
U. S. Pacific Fleet.

Sir Paul Chater,

Chairman of Entertainment Committee,
Hongkong, China.

ADMIRAL PERRIN'S MESSAGE.

A bord du *D'Entrecasteaux*,
Hongkong, le 20 mars 1909.

Monsieur le Président—Avant de quitter Hongkong, je tiens à vous exprimer nos bien vifs remerciements pour l'aimable réception que vous avez bien voulu nous faire en nous associant aux fêtes données en l'honneur de l'escadre américaine. Croyez bien que nous emporterons le meilleur souvenir de notre passage à Hongkong et que nous serons toujours heureux d'y revenir.

Veuillez agréer, Monsieur le Président, les assurances de ma haute considération.

CONTRE AMIRAL L. PERRIN.

A RECORD TRIP.

The Toyo Kisen Kaisha s.s. *Tenyo Maru* made the trip from Nagasaki to this port in 2 days and 18 hours. She left Nagasaki on Saturday the 20th inst. at 3 p.m. and arrived here on Tuesday morning at 9 a.m.

The master of a fishing junk on board of which Sergeant Gordon found a quantity of explosives was fined \$50 by Mr. J. H. Kemp at the Magistracy on Saturday.

THE OPIUM QUESTION.

ANOTHER IMPERIAL EDICT.

The N.-C. Daily News of the 17th inst contains the following Imperial Decree received by telegraph from Peking:—

March 15.

Opium suppression is a necessary measure to the strengthening of Our Empire as well as the mainspring of the development and instruction of the people, involving, as it does, questions of hygiene, of enriching the people, of developing terrestrial profits and of arresting a drain on the national wealth. All eyes are turned to this subject and much universal sympathy and assistance have been exhibited.

On the question, three steps are closely inter-related and dependent, and these are: prohibition of smoking and of plantation, and devising of means to raise revenue to fill the deficit caused in the opium duties. Should any one of these be inefficiently carried out, the other two will in consequence be hampered and success would be looked for in vain.

In recent years though officials addicted to the smoking habit have been examined and denounced on repeated occasions by the Anti-Opium Commissioners and Viceroy and Governors of the provinces, there still exists a number of them who trifle with the interdiction and veneer their faults in that respect.

With regard to the prohibition of the poppy plantation in the provinces, it was first decided to decrease the plantation gradually in ten years. Later, the authorities of Yunnan, Szechuan, Shanse, Chihli, Heilungkiang and other provinces asked permission to forbid plantation entirely in one year. This no doubt, shows great energy of purpose, but whether their intention is thoroughly carried out in all their provinces, and whether the local officials succeed in inducing the people to plant other profitable products on their soil to yield them a living so that they gladly submit to the suppression, remains to be seen.

The duties and likin on this drug are required for the bulk of the army estimates. Recently, the Ministry of Finance memorialized us and obtained permission to increase the price of salt to make up for these duties and likin. This plan, however, only aggregates four or five million taels and there still remains a large deficit.

We are eagerly bent on introducing a better government and between Our agitation at the long weakness of our people, in whom it is difficult to infuse energy, and the fear that the expectations of the friendly Powers may not be easily satisfied. We are filled with constant and pressing anxiety. We hereby re-iterate the prohibition against smoking. The Anti-Opium Commissioners and the high officials in the capital and provinces are held responsible to forbid, faithfully and with energy, all officials, civil or military, to smoke. Those in command to troops or in charge of educational institutions are made responsible for suppression of smoking among soldiers and students. As to merchants and the people, the responsibility must rest with the Ministry of the Interior, the Viceroy, Governors, Military Governors and the Governor of the Imperial Prefecture of Shuntienfu. They will try to obtain the best prescriptions, establish Anti-opium institutes and distribute free medicines when necessary. They should encourage their sense of honour and adopt the plans and practices of foreign countries so that the people's vices may be gradually lessened and finally eradicated.

As to the prohibition of plantation, Viceroy or Governors, the Governor of the Imperial Prefecture of Shuntienfu and Military Governors are commanded to direct their subordinates to carry out the suppression with care and thoroughness. They should also cause other grains to be planted in place of the pernicious drug, and they will be rewarded according to the degree of success they attain. The Ministry of the Interior will supervise these measures being put in operation.

In regard to devising means to fill the deficit of duties and likin, the Ministry of Finance is desired carefully to consider the question. It

is undoubtedly, an important point to be dealt with, but it may be disposed of by weighing advantages and drawbacks and considering all possible resources. Viceroy and Governors who may have valuable suggestions on the question are ordered to memorialize the Throne for their adoption, so that those carrying out the suppression need not be hampered by financial considerations. Though the Government is in straitened circumstances, it will neither seek to satisfy its hunger nor quench its thirst at the expense of this harmful poison, so that it may rid its people of this great bane.

Dividing, in this way, the responsibilities and actions, no evasion of burden will be permitted, and all concerned are commanded to put forth their best energies to aid us in securing prosperous rule by taking natural advantages to ameliorate the conditions of life among our people. After receipt of this Edict each office in the capital or provinces is commanded to make a careful report of its plan of operation in this affair.

[The above Edict is sealed by the Prince Regent and is signed by the Grand Counsellors Prince Ching, Shih Hsi, Chang Chih-tung and Lu Ch'uan-lin.]

THE OPIUM DISCOVERY ON THE
"PRINCESS ALICE."

CAPTAIN TECHNICALLY LIABLE AND FINED
\$500.

The evidence given at the Singapore Police Court by the chief cook with regard to the opium found at Singapore on the last homeward-bound German Mail steamer, was as follows:—

Mr. Prons, the chief cook, said that he received a request to take two boxes at Shanghai. It did not come from anyone in connection with the ship. It was by letter, and no intimation was given as to the contents of the boxes. At Singapore he was to send them to Raffles Hotel, where they would await the arrival of the person who wrote the letter. The boxes were handed to him on board the tender by a Chinaman, who brought no letter but mentioned the name of the writer of the letter. Witness asked the baggage master to take them into the baggage room. After they came back from shore in Singapore he saw them again.

He assisted the baggage master in opening them in the baggage room and having examined the contents left them there. When he received the boxes at Shanghai he had no suspicion that they contained chandu. He had never seen it before. He did not even suspect it when he saw the box leaking here. The man who sent the letter was a steward on board another ship of the N.D.L. witness had met in Singapore about eight months ago. He merely took the cases to please him because he asked him in a friendly way to do so. It was usual for officers of the company to have boxes forwarded to them in this way on the company's steamers.

Cross-examined by Mr. Carver, witness said that he received the letter in a question at Hongkong on his way to Shanghai and tore it up immediately after perusal as was his usual custom. It was stamped Singapore. The steward was on the Singapore Bangkok run and never went to China.

He had never told anyone that he had received the letter from the Chinese steward.

Mr. Perkins then addressed the court, and said regarding the employee of the Co. referred to that his name was in the possession of the police and the Co. had telegraphed instructions that he be not allowed to desert.

Mr. de Mello, the fourth magistrate, decided that the captain was technically liable under the ordinance, and that the offence would be met by a fine of \$500, with costs. It is understood that there will be no appeal. Mr. Fort appeared for the Opium Farm and Mr. Perkins for the captain.

His Worship, after reviewing the evidence, said that it was clear that neither the captain nor the chief officer had knowledge of the contents of the boxes on the voyage from Shanghai

to Singapore. The only persons appearing to have known of the existence of the boxes on board from the very outset were the chief steward Drauns and the baggage master Höftmann. The former, with a view to doing a favour to an acquaintance of his, employed on another ship of the N.D.L., who had written to him to that effect at Hongkong, stated that, when on the tender at Woosung bar he heard himself being asked for by a Chinaman who mentioned the name of his friend and showed him the two cases, he linked in his mind the contents of his friend's letter with the articles he saw before him, and promptly accepted them without further enquiry.

A NATURAL QUESTION.

One's experience would hardly regard that as an improbable or an incredible proceeding on his part. Neither in his subsequent conduct nor in that of the baggage master did there appear to be any effort at secrecy, or any circumstance pointing to a knowledge on their part of the existence of opium in those boxes. The steward, on receiving them from the Chinaman, did not take steps to conceal them, as he might easily have done had he so chosen, amidst the recesses of the ship; but he handed them over to the baggage master as luggage to be landed at Singapore.

After reviewing further evidence, his Worship said that the question naturally suggested itself:—Would the baggage master, if he had any suspicion that the cases held opium, have received them back from the hotel runner? and, having thus received them back, would either he or the steward, if they knew of the illegality of their conduct, have still allowed them, or traces of them, to remain within the eye of every one on board, thereby endangering themselves? The answer to both those questions seemed to be in the negative. The ordinance laid down that the presumption against the accused in such cases might be rebutted by proof of reasonable precaution. For the purpose of such proof, it seems too much to require the captain to acquaint his subordinates with the revenue and excise laws of every port at which they might touch.

Am I to make request on behalf of the informer? asked Mr. Hawtry—I leave that to the Farmers, replied his Worship.

MITIGATING CIRCUMSTANCES.

Nor did it appear to be essential that a search of the ship should be carried out at frequent intervals in the voyage by the ship's officers to detect illicit opium. The ship in question, unlike others that had recently come under observation, was a ship plying between Europe and the Far East, and manned largely, if not entirely, by European seamen. Its voyages were not restricted to Eastern waters. Hence, there was hardly sufficient ground for the apprehension of the crew or other persons connected with the ship secreting illicit articles on board, to necessitate frequent search. The criterion of reasonableness of the precautions against smuggling in the case of a mail steamer would differ from that in the case of a vessel plying regularly and exclusively between Eastern ports. He was therefore, of opinion that the *Princess Alice* had not erred much, if at all, in that respect.

As to the second onus cast upon the accused by the ordinance, it could be said to have been satisfactorily discharged. Amongst the personnel of the ship, the chief steward was certainly implicated, within the meaning of the ordinance, in the importation of the chandu into the Colony, though without knowledge of the substance as chandu. This ignorance on the part of an employee of the ship, combined with the other mitigating circumstances referred to, tended to lessen, to some extent, the penalty which in consequence of the presumption the law imposed upon the master. He, therefore, convicted the master on the charge, and fined him \$500 and costs fifty cents, and ordered the chandu seized to be confiscated.

The export of tea from Foochow last season is shown by the Customs returns to be larger than it has been for at least four seasons past. It exceeded the export of 1907-1908 by about 1,800,000 lbs.

AN AMERICAN BISHOP IN
HONGKONG.

Bishop Brent of the Philippines preached at the Cathedral on Sunday morning at the early military service and at the usual eleven o'clock service. His discourse at the latter service was based on the words of Jesus "Behold we go up to Jerusalem." He dealt with several aspects of Jesus' life and death, the simplicity of the foundation truths of Christianity, and after references to reputation, character, and self respect, he said that every one had ideals. We had our ideals as children. We had our hopes, and ambitions and aspirations as children, but how was it now? Most of us were of mature years, we had seen something of the world, and we know that Jerusalem is not what it looked when we first saw it. Even in our national life things are not what they once seemed. Our government is defective, our social conditions are lacking in many essentials, and our business life impaired by false standards. He pointed out that we could only find the ideal in the actual and we could only gain the ideal by idealising the actual.

THE PHILIPPINES AND FREE
TRADE WITH THE STATES

THE ASSEMBLY IN OPPOSITION.

The Manila *Cablenews* of the 23rd inst. says:—A hot debate was promised yesterday afternoon in the Assembly on the question of the tariff reform and free trade between the United States and the Philippine Islands. Delegate Manuel Quezon was prepared to present a resolution instructing the Resident Commissioners in the United States to oppose the measure to the utmost of their ability, but, owing to the lateness of the hour he reserved it for to-day.

Since the presentation of the Payne bill in Congress and the arising of the question where the loss of revenue resulting from free trade will be derived from, some of the leading members of the Philippine Assembly have talked over the question with the result that it has been decided to combat the measure from both the standpoint of its economic advantage to the Philippines and to the possibility of it being a stumbling block to the ultimate independence of the country.

The attitude of the Assembly on this question in the early days of its inaugural period was the very opposite to what it is now. Instructions were given formerly to the Resident Commissioners to advocate the passage of the needed reforms, especially those regarding the entry into the markets of the United States of Philippine tobacco and sugar as incorporated in the Payne bill.

It is understood that the part of the opposition to the Payne bill in so far as it concerns public economy will be conducted by Delegate Quezon and that concerning the political condition it is believed it will create by Delegate Clarin.

Judging from the attitude of the Assembly it is believed that the opposition to the Payne Bill will be accorded by a large majority.

Senor Quezon said last night to the *Cablenews* that he and his colleagues feared that with the duty off on America goods the revenues would fall off harmfully, and also that it was unjust to ask the Philippines to admit American goods free and limit Philippine products.

Our contemporary also publishes the following telegram from Washington, dated March 20.—"The American rice planters of the Southern States will ask Congress to fix a limit on the importations of Philippine rice into the United States. These planters say that they have advices from rice experts, familiar with the Philippines, who hold that under favourable condition the islands can not only produce enough rice to feed the Filipinos but also to ship vast quantities to the United States. It is not improbable that the Democratic minority in Congress, under the leadership of Champ Clark, may oppose the proposed limitation in the Payne Bill on Philippine sugar and tobacco. The Democrats hold that, if America is to do the Filipinos justice, it must do them whole justice."

FAR EASTERN TELEGRAMS.

VOLCANIC ERUPTION IN JAPAN.

Tokyo, March 24th.

The inhabitants of Nagano prefecture are terrified by the eruption of the volcano Yakegatake, the country being covered with ashes several inches deep for many miles around.

[FROM THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PO."]

CHINA'S LOANS.

Peking, March 19th.

The Board of Foreign Affairs has wired to the Chinese Ministers in different countries to ascertain if Chan Pik, the dismissed President of the Board of Communications, had contracted foreign loans without the knowledge of the Government.

SUPPRESSION OF THE
OPIUM HABIT.

Tokyo, March 19th.

The Board of Internal Affairs has memorialised the Throne to ask that the Viceroys and Governors of the different provinces should hold the superintendents of police responsible for the suppression of the opium habit.

OWNERSHIP OF THE PRATAS
ISLANDS.

Tokyo, March 23rd.

The Japanese Government has announced that as China claims the Pratas Islands, she should furnish proof of ownership.

Further, she should take steps to protect Japanese citizens resident there.

The Japanese Minister at Peking has been instructed to endeavour to arrive at an amicable settlement of the question.

PROPOSED CHINESE NAVAL
STATIONS.

Peking, March 25th.

The Chinese Government proposed to use the ports of Chefoo and Taku as Naval Stations.

FOREIGN CREDITORS.

Peking, March 25th.

A number of Chinese merchants in Tientsin are indebted to foreign firms to the extent of over Taels 10,000,000 (on goods contracts?).

The Board of Foreign Affairs has wired to the Viceroy of Chihli requesting him to ask the Chamber of Commerce in that Province to have the matter settled.

PROHIBITION OF OPIUM SMOKING.

SEVERE MEASURES ENUNCIATED.

Peking, March 26th.

The Peking Government have proposed that in the third year of Hsuen Tsung the smoking of opium within the Empire shall be completely prohibited, and on the first moon of the fourth year people who are found dealing in opium shall be dealt with under laws similar to those prohibiting the smuggling of arms and ammunition.

[This means decapitation or imprisonment for life. Ed.]

CHINA AND FOREIGN LOANS.

Peking, March 26th.

With regard to the foreign loan for the Canton-Hankow Railway, it is stated that the British Government do not insist upon China purchasing material from Great Britain but insist upon the appointment of a British chief engineer. The Grand Secretary Chang Chih Tung opposes this. The Germans are said to have agreed to all the conditions laid down by China for the Tientsin and Ching-Kong Po Railway, and it is believed that the contract will soon be signed.

EXPLOSION ON A RIVER
STEAMER.

Shanghai, March, 26th.

An explosion took place on the river steamer *Lee Hon* on Thursday at Hankow. The vessel sank and forty persons perished.

SHIPPING NOTES.

The Bank Line steamer *Gymeric* which left this port on Saturday for Tacoma, returned yesterday with a loose propeller. Until she is surveyed, Messrs. Dodwell and Co., the agents, are unable to say whether she will have to go into dock.

The second turbine steamer of the Japanese Volunteer Fleet has just been launched from the Mitsu Bishi Dockyard and Engine Works at Nagasaki. The vessel which has a displacement of 3,500 tons and a speed of 21 knots, has been named the *Unegaka Maru*. It was intended that these two steamers should run between Japan and Formosa, but expectations regarding a Government subsidy being unfulfilled, there is some uncertainty, we believe, at present as to their employment.

The *Tacoma Maru*, one of the six Osaka Shosen Kaisha American liners, will be completed and ready for sea in May, next. Two other vessels of the same fleet, the *Seattle Maru* and *Chicago Maru*, will be launched at the Kawasaki Dockyard, Kobe, in April and September next, respectively. The new N.Y.K. European liner *Miyasaki Maru*, is nearing completion at the Kawasaki yard. She is scheduled to leave Kobe on April 24th on her maiden voyage.

The latest, and absolutely the final decision as to the disposal of the burned out oil ship *Netherton*, which has lain at anchor of Tanjong Rhu Singapore, since early in 1907, and has now been sold to a West Hartlepool firm, is (the *Straits Times* says) that she will proceed home under her own steam, as soon as she is considered by the port authorities to have been put in a fit seaworthy condition to put to sea. The work will be executed by Messrs. Riley, Hargreaves Ltd. It may be recollected that the greater part of the damage from fire was sustained in the fore part of the vessel, and that the engines were practically untouched. The greater part of the work to be done, therefore, will be the strengthening of the ship forward. On reaching the Isles, she will be thoroughly overhauled. The purchase price of the ship, as she lies, is approximately £4,000.

At a special meeting called for February 15th, the stockholders of the Boston Steamship Company were to be asked to dissolve the corporation. On January 7th the company sold its Pacific steamers *Shawmut* and *Tremont*, to Government for \$1,213,282, agreeing to bring them around to New York. As the company now has no steamers and is earning nothing, it is deemed wise to dissolve. The proceeds of the sale were insufficient by \$300,000 to pay off the indebtedness, and Kidder, Peabody & Co., who bought out the corporation, have handed the company's treasurer \$300,000, although under no obligations to do so.

The dissolution of the Boston Steamship Company, writes the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* of Feb. 10th, means the disappearance of a corporation which has been identified with Puget Sound and Orient shipping for several years. Their firm operated from Seattle to Manila, via Japan and China, in spite of heavy losses, unfavourable legislation, a Government that showed apathy towards vessels flying the Stars and Stripes, and finally against strong competition by foreign tonnage. That the company's indebtedness is not more than \$300,000 will probably surprise many who have watched with interest with what difficulties the company contended. The Boston Steamship Company is not identified with the Boston Tow Boat Company, owning the steamers *Lyra*, *Pleiades* and *Hyades*, formerly operated to the Orient from Seattle. The *Shawmut* and *Tremont* were the only vessels in the Boston Steamship Company's fleet.

COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS:—

RICE.

Hongkong, 29th March:—The downward tendency continues, a few demands having come forward. Quotations now, are:—

Saigon, Ordinary	\$4.60 to \$4.65
" Round, Good quality	\$4.70 to 4.80
" Long	\$5.00 to 5.05
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2	\$4.95 to 5.0
" Garden, " No. 1	\$4.90 to 4.95
" White,	\$4.80 to 4.85
" Fine Cargo	\$5.00 to 5.05

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, March, 29th.

Quotations are:—

Malwa New	\$1,070/1,080 per picul.
Malwa Old	\$1,090/1,100 do.
Malwa Older	\$1,110/1,140 do.
Malwa Very Old	\$1,150/1,180 do.
Persian First Quality	\$1,020/1,050 do.
Persian Extra Fine	\$850/900 do.
Patna New	\$937 per chest.
Patna Old	\$965 do.
Benares New	\$935 do.
Benares Old	\$— do.

PIECE GOODS.

Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co. in their Piece Goods Report, dated Shanghai 18th March, 1909, state:—The week under review has been a very quiet one, which must to a great extent be attributed to the unfavourable weather conditions prevailing almost uninterruptedly, and also pending the opening of Newchwang, which is not expected now until nearly the end of the month, the cold up there being so intense the ice is fully nine inches thick near the mouth of the River and is not expected to break up before the next spring, say the 22nd inst., the drift ice making it dangerous to navigation until four or five days latter. It is therefore unlikely that steamers will clear from this until at least another week, though it is understood several are standing by in order to avail of first opportunity of slipping out. That it may be earlier is the general hope, every one wishing to see a more decided movement than has so far been the case in spite of the sanguine expectations entertained earlier in the season. Better news of the market is coming in all the time, and it will be a great disappointment if it does not soon show some more substantial signs of confirmation. The exports of produce during the last quarter were much in excess of the previous year and should assist the purchasing power of the populace. That there is still great competition for the Manchurian trade is undoubted. That better news is being received from Tientsin is unquestionable, and if the extravagant prices now prevailing for yarn can be paid for that market why not for other staple makes of goods? Fresh orders have come down during the interval, especially for American goods and a fair quantity have changed hands amongst the Natives, being chiefly resales of goods bought from first hands earlier in the year. These in turn were replaced by fresh purchases in New York where it is said fully 20,000 Bales have been booked for this market, but not for very early shipment, the Mills not being able to supply anything before May and the business done extends from that month up to August, and consists chiefly of the medium weights of Sheetings. For the standard makes, especially the Peppercell goods, the very full prices wanted is prohibiting business, the demand for China which they are anticipating, showing no tangible evidence so far of its early advent, in fact there are sellers of goods here willing to take two to three mace under the equivalent of prices they are standing out for. The Manchester market is about unchanged, if anything on the easy side, but so far as we can learn little is being booked for this. Cotton continues to sag down in the Liverpool market, today's quotations coming 5.01d. for Mid-American "spot", 4.96d. June/July option and 7 1/2d. for Egyptian. New York advises a large business doing for China, but Mills are so fully engaged, none of the fresh transactions are for delivery before May, and are mostly for June/August shipment. Cotton has taken a sudden slump in New York, for whereas the quotations came yesterday 9.48 cents March and 9.36 cents July, today the price for the latter month comes 9.21 cents. The Indian Yarn market here has been cornered by some powerful operators who are exacting fancy prices for favorite Spinnings, but the general opinion is that they have above touched the top now. It is reported Bombay has commenced to sell for August/September.

Japanese Spinnings have likewise been excited owing to the manipulations of the Osaka Exchange. Prices advanced tremendously, some say to Yen 130.00, but have subsided. Local Spinnings are firm in sympathy with imported Yarns, and this helps to keep the prices for Native Cotton very strong, the demand being in excess of the supply. The business passing privately in piece goods remains very small, but a few Importers do say they have made some progress in getting old purchases cleared away under threats of putting them up for Auction, which continues to be the medium the bulk of the trade is being done by. Both Greys and Whites showed considerable firmness on the whole at the last Yuen Fong sale but these goods had a dropping tendency this morning. Turkey Reds have appreciated in value throughout the interval with few exceptions. Fast Black Cotton Italians and Venetians in spite of a fair sprinkling of slightly better prices are undoubtedly weaker on the whole. Woollens have kept fairly steady to firm. The chief business privately has been in American Goods. It was reported that fully 5,000 bales had been taken from Importers from stock, but we are creditably informed that the goods in question were originally bought at the commencement of this year and have now been resold to the Northern buyers. The fresh business in New York consists chiefly of Sheetings and it is said amounts to fully 20,000 bales amongst which we hear is included Buffalo A. and Piedmont, 4 Apple Chop. Peizer A., Clifton C. C. C. and Piedmont K., on the basis of 1 s. 2d. to 10s 3 1/2d. for 3 yard, and 9s. 6d. for 3 1/2 yard the shipment being from May to August. Re-exports to Kiukiang.—It is regrettable to see the lack of improvement shown in this quarter.

HONGKONG QUOTATIONS.

HONGKONG, 29th March, 1909.

Hongkong markets:—

Apricot	\$19 to 20
Borax	\$28 to 29
Cassia	\$22 to 23
Cloves	\$31 to 32
Camphor	\$78 to 85
Cow Bezar	\$70 to 120
Fennel Seed	\$8
Galangal	\$3 to 4 1/2
Grapes	\$19 to 10 1/2
Kismis	\$21 to 22 1/2
Glue	\$26 to 26 1/2
Olibanum	\$3 to 14
Oil Sandalwood	\$250 to 300
" Rusa	\$70 to 80
" Cassia	\$195
Raisins	\$13 1/2
Senna Leaves	\$8
Sandalwood	\$33
Saltpetre	\$10 1/2 to 11 1/2

EXPORTS:—

CAMPBOR.

HONGKONG 29th March:—The prices are the same as last reported.

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

HANKOW, 10th March.—The prices quoted are for the net shipping weight excluding cost of packing for export:—

	Per picul
Cowhides, best selected	Tls. 38.50
Do. seconds	" 33.25
Buffalo hides, best selected	" 22.00
Goatskins, untanned, chiefly white colour,	" —
Buffalo Horns, average 3 lbs. each	" —
White China Grass, Wuchang and/or Poochi	" 8.80
White China Grass, Sinshan and/or Chayu	" 7.60
Green China Grass, Szechuen	" —
Jute	" —
White Vegetable Tallow, Kinchow	" 10.70
White Vegetable Tallow, Pingchow and/or Macheng	" —
White Vegetable Tallow, Mongyu	" —
Green Vegetable Tallow, Kiyu	" 10.00
Animal Tallow	" 11.00
Gallnuts, usual shape	" 14.90
Gallnuts, plum do.	" 17.40
Tobacco, Tingchow	" —
Tobacco, Wongkong	" —
Black Bristles, Riflings	" 107.00
Feathers, grey and/or white Wild Duck	" —
Turmeric	" —
Sesamum Seed	" 5.05
Sesamum Seed Oil	" —
Wood Oil	" 8.60
Tea Oil	" —

Per P. & O. s.s. *Palawan*, sailed on the 24th March 1909:—For Manchester.—150 bales waste silk. For London.—100 bales waste silk, 125 cases chinaware, 200 rolls nutting, 2 cases joss sticks

Per P. & O. str. *Macedonia*, sailed on 20th Mar., for Hamburg:—150 bales hemp. For Rotterdam:—100 bales hemp. For Manchester:—200 bales waste silk. For Lisbon:—1 case Chinaware. For Gibraltar:—3 cases silk piece goods, 1 case curios. For Lyons:—97 bales raw silk. For Marseilles:—100 bales waste silk, 1 case silk embroidery, 151 bales raw silk. For London:—500 bales waste silk, 4,850 bales hemp, 9 bales raw silk, 183 half-chest tea, 52 packages private effects, Chinaware, blackwoodware, etc., 8 cases silk, and 6 bales hammocks.

HONGKONG SHARE QUOTATIONS.

HONGKONG, 26th March 1909.—Business has been quieter during the past week and rates in many cases show a further decline, though at the close a fairly steady tone prevailed. Barsilver has declined to 23 1/2d, and sterling exchange to 1/8 1/2. The T. T. rate on Shanghai has advanced to 75.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have receded to \$30 sellers with a small transaction reported at \$25. The London quotation remains at £86. Nationals are still quoted with buyer at \$51.

MARINE INSURANCE.—Unions have hardened, and sales are reported at the improved rate of \$845 at which there are further buyers. North Chins have been booked at Tls. 100, and (small lot) at Tls. 105, closing with probable buyers at the former rate. Yangtze-s. have been sold at \$200 and Cantons at \$187 1/2, the latter closing in further request.

FIRE INSURANCE.—Chinas have declined without local sales to \$107 sellers. In Hongkong a fair business has been transacted at \$315, and more shares can be placed.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao continues firm at 29 1/2 with few shares forthcoming at the rate. In 100 are still in request at \$40 and \$20 for the preferred and deferred combined, and Douglas at \$35. Star Ferry's (old) have been booked at \$23 1/2 and Chi a and Mauias at \$9, the latter closing weaker with sellers at \$8 1/2. Shell transports can be placed at 54/- for ordinary "tearers," and at £11 for "preference."

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have ruled steady with small sales at \$135 and \$137 1/2, closing with probable sellers at the latter rate. Luzons are unchanged at \$17 sellers, and without business.

MINING.—Ranhs are unchanged with sellers at \$8 1/2, but at \$8 business could probably be done. There are buyers of Charbonnages at \$600.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks in the early part of the week fell rapidly to \$78 with a small sale reported at \$75, but a firmer feeling has since set in and sales have been effected at \$80, market closing with further buyers. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharves have receded to \$50, but at a lower rate, probably \$45, there are buyers. Shanghai Docks after dropping in the North to Tls. 82 are firmer with local buyers at Tls. 84. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharves are lower with sales and probable buyers in the North at Tls. 165. New Amoy Docks are wanted at \$9 1/2.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands after further sales at \$100 are somewhat easier with probable sellers at \$99 1/2. Humphreys' Estates have been booked at \$8 1/2 and Kowloon lands at \$30. West Points are still procurable at \$44 and Hongkong Hotels at the reduced rate of \$84. Shanghai Lands are unchanged at Tls. 115.

COTTON MILLS.—Ewos have improved to Tls. 120, and type s to Tls. 360, but the other Northern Mills are without change. Hongkongs are still on offer at \$9.

MISCELLANEOUS.—China-Borneos, have been booked, and there are more shares available at \$12 1/2. China Providents have been sold at \$9.25 and Electric at \$19. Cam-n's in the earlier part of the week changed hands freely at \$9.60 and \$9.50, but a sudden fall has since been experienced, and sales at \$9 are reported at this

rate, however, more shares could probably be placed. A meeting of shareholders in this Company is advertised for the 3rd April at which a final dividend of 50 cents per share, making in all 90 cents per share for 1908, will be proposed. Dairy Farms are wanted at \$14. Bell's Asbestos at \$10, and Watsons at \$9. There are sellers of Ices at \$190, but at \$180 buyers of small lots could probably be found.

Memos.—Company Meetings advertised.—Green Island Cement Co., Ltd. April 3rd 1909, China and Manila Steamship Co., Ltd. April 3rd, 1909, China-Borneo Co., Ltd., April 5th, 1909, Union Insurance Society of Canton Ltd., April 21st, 1902.

Quotations are as follows:—

Stocks	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS
Alhambra, Ltd.	Ps. 200	Nominal
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai...	\$125	\$93, s llers
National B. of China	26	\$51, buyers
Bell's Asbestos E. A....	12/6d.	\$10, buyers
China-Borneo Co.....	\$12	\$12, buyers
China Light & P. Co....	\$10	\$5
China Provident	\$10	\$9.30, sellers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo Cotton S. & W.	Tls. 50	Tls. 118
Hongkong C. S. Co.	\$10	\$9 sellers
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 92
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 102
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 360
Dairy Farm Co.....	\$6	\$14, buyers
Docks & Wharves—		
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$50, sellers
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$80, buyers
New Amoy Dock	\$50	\$91, buyers
Shanghai Dock and	Tls. 100	Tls. 84, buyers
Eng. Co., Ltd	Tls. 100	Tls. 105
S'hai & H. Wharf...	Tls. 100	Tls. 105
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$12, sellers
G. Island Cement Co	\$10	\$91, sellers
Hongkong & C. Gas...	\$10	\$210, buyers
Hongkong Electric...	\$10	\$181, buyers
Hongkong Hotel Co....	\$50	\$84, sellers
Hongkong Ice Co.....	\$25	\$190, sellers
H. K. Milling Co., Ltd.	\$100	Nominal
H'kong Rope M. Co....	\$10	\$24
Insurances—		
Canton	\$50	\$187, sales
China Fire	\$20	\$107, sellers
China Traders	\$25	\$87, buyers
Hongkong Fire.....	\$50	\$315, sales & buy.
North China	\$5	Tls. 100
Union	\$100	\$845, buyers
Yangtze	\$60	\$200
Land and Buildings—		
H'kong Land Invest.	\$100	\$99, sellers
Humphrey's Estate	\$10	\$8.75, buyers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$30
Shanghai Land.....	Tls. 50	Tls. 115
West Point Building	\$50	44, sellers
Mining—		
S. F. des C. du T'kin	Rs. 250	\$60, buyers
Raub	18/10d.	\$84, sellers
Peak Tramways Co., Ltd.	\$10	\$14
Philippine Co., Ltd.	\$10	\$8
Refineries—		
China Sugar	\$100	\$137, buyers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	17, sellers
Robinson Piano Co. ...	\$50	\$59, sellers
Steamship Companies—		
China and Manila...	\$25	8, sellers
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$35, buyers
H., Canton & M. ...	\$15	\$29, buyers
Indo-China S. N. Co.	\$25	\$40, buyers
Shell Transport Co.	\$21	\$20, buyers
Star Ferry	\$10	\$54, buyers
South China M. Post...	\$25	\$23, sales
Steam Laundry Co....	\$5	\$15
Stores & Dispensaries—		
Campbell, M & Co....	\$10	\$9, buyers
Wm. Powell, Ltd. ...	\$7	\$24, buyers
Watkins, Ltd.....	\$10	\$2, buyers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$9, buyers
Weissmann, Ltd.....	\$100	\$140
United Asbestos	\$10	\$12, buyers
Union Waterboat Co....	\$10	\$230
		\$10.10, sales

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

SHANGHAI SHARE QUOTATIONS.

17th March, 1909.

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATION.
Banks:—		
Hongkong & S'hai...	\$125	\$960, sales
National of China...	26	\$50
Russo-Chinese	R187 1/2	Tls. 175
Insurance:—		
Union Society C'ton	\$100	\$825, buyers
North-China	25	Tls. 97, buyers
Yangtze Assocn.	\$60	\$215, buyers
Canton	\$50	\$195, sales
Hongkong Fire.....	\$50	\$337, sales
China Fire.....	\$20	\$107, sales
Shipping:—		
Indo - China { pref. }		Tls. 45
Shell Trans. (ord.)	21	\$22.80
& Trading { pref. }	10	\$29.10.0
S'hai Tug & ord.)	T50	Tls. 49, buyers
Lighter ... { pref. }		Tls. 52, buyers
Taku Tug & Lighter	T50	Tls. 48
Kochien Transport-		
ation & Tow Boat	T50	Tls. 42, sellers
Docks & Wharves:—		
S'hai Dock & Eng...	T100	Tls. 88, sellers
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$91, sellers
S. & H'kew Wharf...	T100	Tls. 176, sellers
H. K'loon W. & G...	\$50	\$45, sellers
Yangtze	T100	Tls. 217, buyers
Sugar Companies:—		
Perak Cultivation...	T50	Tls. 125, buyers
China Refining.....	\$100	\$112, buyers
Mining:—		
Raub Australian ...	21	\$8, buyers
Chinese Eng. & Min.	18/10	Tls. 181, buyers
Lands:—		
S'hai Investment ...	T50	Tls. 115, sellers
H'kong Investment	\$100	\$93
Humphreys' Estate	\$10	\$104
Wenhuiwei	T25	Tls. 8, buyers
China	T50	Tls. 50, sellers
Anglo-French	T100	Tls. 102
Cotton:—		
Ewo	T50	Tls. 120, buyers
International	T75	Tls. 91, sellers
Laou Kung Mow ...	T100	Tls. 105, buyers
Soy Chee	T50	Tls. 360, sales
Industrial:—		
Shanghai Gas	T50	Tls. 115, buyers
Major Brothers.....	T50	Tls. 50
Shanghai Ice.....	T25	Tls. 14
China Flour Mill...	T50	Tls. 40, sellers
S'hai Pulp & Paper	T100	Tls. 42, buyers
Green Is. Cement...	\$10	\$10, sales
Matschappij, & Co.,		
in Langkat.....	Gs. 100	Tls. 810, sellers
Shanghai - Sumatra		
Tobacco	T20	Tls. 120, buyers
S'hai Waterworks...	\$20	Tls. 435, sales
Anglo-Ger. Brewery	100	\$80, sellers
A. Butler Cement,		
Tile Works	50	Tls. 20, sales
Kalumpang Rubber	50	Tls. 100, sales
S. R'ber Estates ...	T100	Tls. 130, buyers
Eastern Fibre	\$10	
Shanghai Electric		
Construction	\$10	\$9.0.0. sellers
Miscellaneous:—		
Hall & Holtz.....	\$20	\$23, sales
A. Llewellyn	\$60	\$52, buyers
A. S. Watson & Co.	\$10	\$91
Central Ordinary ...	\$15	\$18, buyers
Central Founders...	\$15	\$100, buyers
S. Moutrie & Co....	\$50	\$46, sales
Weeks & Co.	\$20	\$25, buyers
Astor House Hotel	\$25	\$18, buyers
Hongkong Hotel Co.	\$50.00	Tls. 90, sellers
Hotel des Colonies	T12.50	Tls. 6, sales
Lane, Crawford & Co.	100	\$152, buyers
Dunning & Co.	50	\$50, sales
S'hai Horse Bazar...	T50	Tls. 50, sellers
S'hai Mercury	T50	Tls. 50
S'hai Mutual Tele.	T50	Tls. 62, buyers
China Im. & Ex.		
Lumber	T100	Tls. 83, sellers
Shanghai Electric &		
Asbestos	\$25	\$22, sellers
Dallas Horse Re-		
pository	T50	Tls. 25
Printing Co.....	T50	Tls. 50

J. P. BISSET & Co.

Messrs J. P. Bisset & Co. in their Share Report for the week ending March 17th, state:— There has been a fair general business put through since our last issue. The feature of the week has been the advance in the price of Hongkong and Shanghai Bank shares which this time last week were at \$930, and close strong at \$960. There is not much change in the prices of other stocks to report. The T. T. on London to-day is 2/3. Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banks. A very strong demand has prevailed all the week and a considerable number of shares have changed hands. The market at the close was strong and shares were in demand at \$960. Insurance.—Yangtze Insurance Co. have declared a dividend of \$15 per share and are in strong demand with buyers at \$215. Shipping.—Shanghai Tugs Ordinary shares improved to Tls. 48. Reference have buyers at Tls. 52. Kochien Tugs. There are sellers at Tls. 42. Docks and Wharves.—There is no business reported this week. Rates remain at Tls. 88 March and Tls. 91 and 92 for June. Shanghai and Hongkong Wharves. As usual a fair business has been done in this stock both for March and June delivery. Rates have not varied to any extent and close at Tls. 175 for March and Tls. 181 to Tls. 181 for June. Sugars.—Perak Sugar reached the figure of Tls. 125. There are a few shares obtainable at this price. Lands.—Shanghai Land Investment Co. A fair quantity of shares were on the market at Tls. 115 in the early part of the week, but these were gradually absorbed and there are now buyers at this price. Anglo-French Lands. The quotation remains at Tls. 102. Industrial.—Considerable business has been done in all Cotton shares. Ewo Cottons which opened at Tls. 116 for March and Tls. 119 for June have gradually advanced to Tls. 120 for March and Tls. 124 for June, closing firm. Internationals have hardly varied and business was done yesterday at Tls. 91 for March and Tls. 94 for June. Laou Kung Mow Shares have been steady all the week. Transactions are reported at Tls. 105 for March and Tls. 108 to 109 for June. Shanghai Gas shares are wanted at Tls. 115. Matschappij & Co. in Langkat shares. Very little has been done this week. The dividend of Tls. 12 was paid on the 15th and shares are now quoted ex. div. at Tls. 805 for cash, Tls. 810 for March, and Tls. 825 for June. Shanghai Sumatras in the early part of the week were somewhat depressed, but strong, buying has taken place since and at the close a transaction is reported at Tls. 120 for March. Kalumpang Rubbers have been dealt in at Tls. 100. Senawangs. There is a demand for these shares and we hear of a transaction yesterday at Tls. 125. Miscellaneous.—There is nothing of interest to report, rates are as appended below. Debentures.—There has been a single transaction in As or House 7 per cent debentures at Tls. 102.

EXCHANGE.

ON LONDON.—	HONGKONG, March 29th.
Telegraphic Transfer	1/8 1/2
Bank Bills, on demand	1/8 1/2
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/8 1/2
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/8 1/2
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/9 1/2
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	1/9 1/2
ON PARIS.—	Bank Bills, on demand ...
	218 1/2
ON GERMANY.—	On demand
	177 1/2
ON NEW YORK.—	Bank Bills, on demand
	43 1/2
ON BOMBAY.—	Telegraphic Transfer ..
	130 1/2
ON CALCUTTA.—	Telegraphic Transfer ..
	130 1/2
ON SHANGHAI.—	Bank, at sight
	74 1/2
	Private, 30 days' sight
	75 1/2
ON YOKOHAMA.—	On demand
	84 1/2
ON MANILA.—	On demand
	85 1/2
ON SINGAPORE.—	On demand
	74 1/2
ON BATAVIA.—	On demand
	104 1/2
ON HAIPHONG.—	On demand ...
	10 1/2 p.c. pm.
ON SAIGON.—	On demand ...
	10 1/2 p.c. pm.
ON BANGKOK.—	On demand
	87
FOREIGN, Bank's Buying Rate.....	\$11.35
GOLD LEAF 100 fine, per tael	\$59.50
BAR SILVER per oz	23 1/2

SUBSIDIARY COINS.

		per cent discount.
Shanghai	20 cents pieces...	\$8.05
"	10 " "	8.85
Hongkong	20 " "	7.40
"	10 " "	7.60

FREIGHT.

Hankow, 10th March.—Per Conference Steamers, To London and Northern Continental ports 50/- per ton of 40 cft. plus river freight. To Genoa, Marseilles or Havre 50/- per ton of 40 cft. plus river freight. To New York (via Suez) General Cargo 32/- per ton of 40 cft. plus river freight. To New York (via Suez) Tea 39/6 per ton of 40 cft. plus river freight. To New York (Overland) per carload; Tea G. \$1.50 cents per lb gross; less than carload Tea G. \$1.75 cents per lb gross; plus river freight. To Shanghai:—Tea and General Cargo, Tls. 1.80 per ton, weight or measurement.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

March:—

ARRIVALS.

19, Bangkok, German str., from Bangkok.
19, Bellerophon, British str., from Liverpool.
19, Bendoran, British str., from Singapore.
19, Empress of Japan, Br. str., from Vancouver.
19, Haimun, British str., from Swatow.
19, Kanagawa Maru, Jap. str., from London.
19, Macedonia, British str., from Shanghai.
19, Stettin, British str., from Foochow.
19, Taiwan, British str., from Chefoo.
19, Tean, British str., from Manila.
19, Tjimahi, Dutch str., from Macassar.
19, Yessan Maru, Jap. str., from Kutchinotzu.
20, Chihli, British str., from Hoihow.
20, Chipshing, British str., from Tientsin.
20, Monmouthshire, Br. str., from Singapore.
21, Achillis, British str., from Shanghai.
21, Chinkua, British str., from Shanghai.
21, Haitan, British str., from Swatow.
21, Hongkong, French str., from Hoihow.
21, Laertes, British str., from Amoy.
21, Loosok, German str., from Bangkok.
21, Mausang, British str., from Sandakan.
21, Shinano Maru, Jap. str., from Shanghai.
21, Suisang, British str., from Calcutta.
22, Amara, British str., from Hongay.
22, Chiynen, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
22, Chowtai, German str., from Swatow.
22, Dortmund, German str., from Shanghai.
22, Glenfarg, British str., from Shanghai.
22, Hailan, French str., from Hoihow.
22, Helene, German str., from Hoihow.
22, Hinsang, British str., from Hongay.
22, Kwangse, British str., from Shanghai.
22, Petchaburi, German str., from Bangkok.
22, Progress, Nor. str., from Pulo Lant.
22, Yuensang, British str., from Manila.
23, Cathay, Danish str., from Shanghai.
23, Fausang, British str., from Saigon.
23, Haimun, British str., from Swatow.
23, Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.
23, Hongmoh, British str., from Singapore.
23, Kleist, Ger. str., from Yokohama.
23, Knivsberg, German str., from Pakhoi.
23, Palawan, British str., from Shanghai.
23, Rigel, American str., from Manila.
23, Tenyo M., Jap. str., from San Francisco.
23, Tydeus, British str., from Singapore.
23, Yingchow, British str., from Sourabaya.
23, Zafiro, British str., from Manila.
24, Ceylon Maru, Jap. str., from Moji.
24, Chenan, British str., from Shanghai.
24, Cyclops, British str., from Vancouver.
24, Fooksang, British str., from Singapore.
24, Haiyang, British str., from Coast Ports.
24, Joshin Maru, Jap. str., from Tamsui.
24, Kumeric, British str., from Victoria.
24, Kwanglee, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
24, Merapi, Dutch str., from Singapore.
24, Prinz Waldemar, Ger. str., from Kobe.
24, Vorwaerts, Austrian str., from Shanghai.
25, Briggavia, German str., from Hamburg.
25, Goeben, German str., from Bremen.
25, Tingsang, British str., from Chinkiang.
25, Tjilatjap, Dutch str., from Macassar.

March:—

DEPARTURES.

19, Delhi, British str., for Shanghai.
19, Gregory pear, Br. str., for Singapore.
19, Gymeric, British str., for Tacoma.
19, Haiching, British str., for Swatow.
19, Hong Wan I, British str., for Amoy.
19, Kweilin, British str., for Amoy.
19, Linan, British str., for Shanghai.
19, Loongsang, British str., for Manila.
19, Nikko Maru, Japanese str., for Manila.
19, Phranang, German str., for Bangkok.
19, Victoria, Swedish str., for Saigon.
19, Yeboshi Maru, Jap. str., for Singapore.
19, Yotorofu M., Japanese str., for Shanghai.

20, Albenga, German str., for New York.
20, Austria, Austrian str., for Shanghai.
20, Feiching, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
20, Kweiyang, British str., for Shanghai.
20, Macedonia, British str., for Europe.
20, Pompey, American str., for Manila.
20, Rubi, British str., for Manila.
20, Stettin, British str., for Saigon.
21, Anhui, British str., for Shanghai.
21, C. Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Hoihow.
21, Daijin Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
21, Haimun, British str., for Swatow.
21, Ichang, British str., for Swatow.
21, Kanagawa M., Jap. str., for Yokohama.
21, Keongwai, German str., for Swatow.
21, Kueichow, British str., for Amoy.
21, Quinta, German str., for Chinkiang.
22, Kaifong, British str., for Cebu.
22, Rajaburi, German str., for Bangkok.
23, Achilles, British str., for Liverpool.
23, Bendoran, British str., for Nagasaki.
23, Dortmund, German str., for Singapore.
23, Haitan, British str., for Swatow.
23, Kwongsang, British str., for Shanghai.
23, Mathilde, German str., for Haiphong.
23, Monmouthshire, Brit. str., for Shanghai.
23, Tean, British str., for Manila.
23, Wongkoi, German str., for Bangkok.
24, Bellerophon, Br. str., for Kutchinotzu.
24, Chihli, British str., for Haiphong.
24, Hailan, French str., for Hoihow.
24, Haimun, British str., for Swatow.
24, Kleist, German str., for Europe.
24, Lightning, British str., for Singapore.
24, Meefoo, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
24, Palawan, British str., for Singapore.
24, Rajah, German str., for Bangkok.
24, Tjimahi, Dutch str., for Amoy.
24, Wosang, British str., for Shanghai.
25, Cathay, Danish str., for Singapore.
25, Hongkong, French str., for Haiphong.
25, Hongmoh, British str., for Amoy.
25, Luchow, British str., for Shanghai.
25, Pheumpenh, British str., for Saigon.
25, Tydeus, British str., for Shanghai.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per *Kumeric*, from Victoria, Mr Bow.
Per *Haimun*, from Swatow, Miss Sollman.
Per *Loosok*, from Bangkok, Mr W. Dowrie.
Per *Hanoi*, from Yunnan Railway, Director Bazin.
Per *Hongmoh*, from Singapore, Mrs Bambridge.
Per *Chenan*, from Shanghai, Mr James McAdams.
Per *Suisang*, from Calcutta, Rev. H. H. Sohaws.
Per *Rigel*, from Manila, Mrs C. Lievert and Mr L. D. Macks.
Per *Vorwaerts*, from Shanghai, Messrs T. A. Ross, R. Haas and M. Clare.
Per *Haitan*, from Swatow, Mr and Mrs McLowan and 3 children, Mr and Mrs McFlindus.
Per *Haiyang*, from Swatow, Mr and Mrs Lennan, Messrs Ricketts, E. Paget and A. Thompson.
Per *Monmouthshire*, from Singapore, Mr. and Mrs. Gregory, Miss M. Curran, Misses Jackson (2) and Mr. F. A. Hammond.
Per *Yuensang*, from Manila, Dr. F. McClintic, Messrs T. B. Belfield, W. J. Bycraft, E. H. Johnson and antiage Calixte.
Per *Palawan*, from Shanghai, Mr and Mrs Edwards and 3 children, Mr and Mrs Taylor and family, Mr and Mrs Pleummer and 2 children, Mrs and Miss Trotzig, & Mr Furnes.
Per *Kanagawa Maru*, from London, Mr and Mrs R. A. Harding, Mr and Mrs W. Turner, Mr and Mrs S. S. Roberts, Mr and Mrs B. Pederson, Mr and Mrs O. Schmitte, Miss Orr, Messrs O. Balaan and H. Tindall.
Per *Zafiro*, from Manila, Mr and Mrs G. Young, Mr and Mrs Seymour, Mr and Mrs H. Withers, Rev. and Mrs Black, Mrs Buzzens, Mrs W. A. Cooke, Mrs S. Dewey, Mrs Henri, Mrs Kriye, Mrs B. Edger, Mrs D. Downing, Mrs Herschler, Mrs M. Gosling, Mrs Sobreno, Misses V. Yondan, J. Blundell, M. Stewart and L. Vernon, Dr. F. Thakel, Capt. Higgins, Lieut. uvglea, Messrs J. Tomey, J. Meteren, T. Hemphorne, T. Eldridge, J. McAuley, C. Bennet, A. Yeurdsley, S. Cohen, T. McKay, Mockhing, P. Seldner, T. Cotter, R. Norfleet, J. Reid, A. Patterson, G. Cole, Bunstien and J. Benevidas.

Per *Empress of Japan*, for Hongkong, from Vancouver, Mrs S. Leiser, Rev. T. Fischer, Rev. L. Schmitt, Rev. P. Y. Dugner, Sisters M. Scholastica, M. Natalia and M. Adelina, Messrs W. J. Fordney, J. G. and J. Porter, and H. Leiser; from Kobe, Mr C. Pratt; from Shanghai, Messrs A. Widmann, H. McDougall and C. d'Assumpcao.

Per *Macedonia*, from Shanghai, for Hongkong, Messrs Heape, J. Band, H. A. Gray, L. Hing, L. Ming, Law Bawn Sung and servant, Chung P. Zung and servant, Van Yan Tse and servant, Chang Tse Ching and servant, Chao Taw Sheu and servant, C. E. Watkins, J. Higgins and G. Dewey; from Yokohama, for Gibraltar, Dr. and Mrs C. G. Campbell & child, and Miss Delmotte; for Brindisi, Mr R. S. Kirby; for Marseilles, Mr P. W. Cain; for London, Messrs Quantanas, and Kirbys' servant; from Kobe, for Port Said, Mr F. Koch; from Shanghai, for Singapore, Mr and Mrs Matthews and servant, and Mr G. Rosser; for Calcutta, Mr Stanley Hall; for Colombo, Mr S. Baker; for Bombay, Messrs B. C. Sethna, Chang Hang Lam and Dzung Tse Van; for Marseilles, Mr and Mrs Morse, Mrs and Misses Watson, Messrs Watson (Jnr.), J. S. Openseaw and T. James; for London, Mr and Mrs T. D. Begg, Mr and Mrs Hickman, 2 children and infant, Mr and Mrs Beach, Mr & Mrs Withey, Mrs H. S. Cooke, Mrs Gray, child, infant and amah, Mrs Harris, Misses Hamilton and Bernhard, Messrs J. Begg, children & infant, R. A. Cousens, J. Vallance, J. West, G. E. Kirk and valet, Henckendorff, T. W. Pickard and J. K. Tweed.

DEPARTED.

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Printed and published by BERTRAM AUGUSTUS HALE, for the Concerned, at 10A, Des Voeux Road Central, City of Victoria, Hongkong, London Office, 131, Fleet Street, E.C.